

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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No. 695.—VOL. XIII.

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1868.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED 4D.

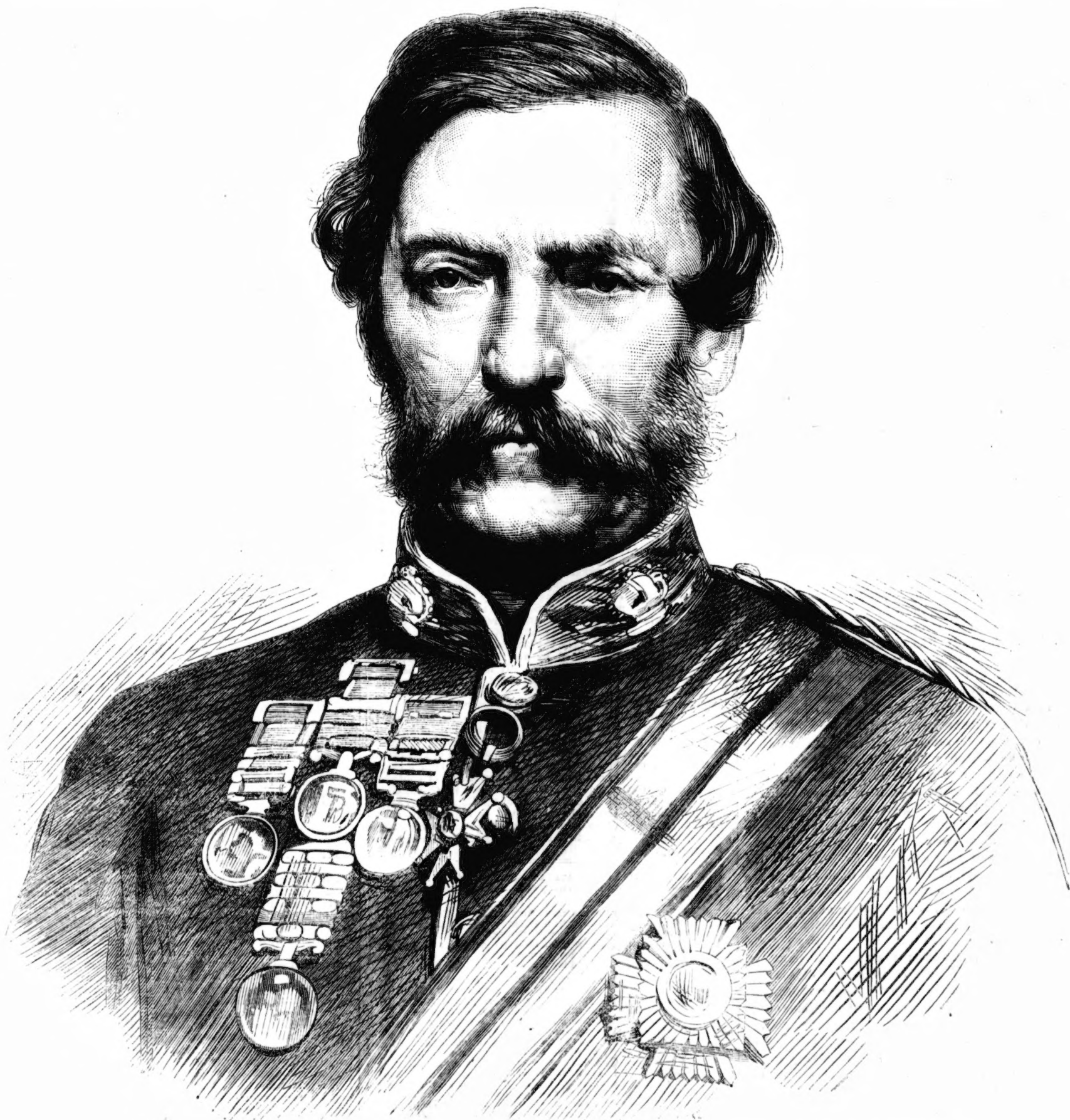
THE NEW EASTERN QUESTION.

A NEW "Eastern Question" seems likely to arise to trouble Occidental Europe in general, and Great Britain in particular. This is the Consular Courts difficulty, the scene of which, at present, is Egypt, but which must ultimately extend to all the countries really or nominally subject to the rule of the Sublime Porte. The points involved seem of small moment to the world at large, but trifling difficulties often lead to great ones if unwisely dealt with; and there are certain features of this Consular Courts question that

render it peculiarly embarrassing. It is a question, to begin with, to which the ordinary rules of international law do not apply. Indeed, it could never have arisen where those laws were in operation, or were applicable; and it must, consequently, be judged and settled on its own merits, and on broad moral principles.

There was a time when Turkey was an outlaw from the comity of nations; when she had no friends, and was the friend of no one; when her hand, like that of the progenitor of her Prophet, was against all men, and all men's

hands were against her; when she acknowledged no law but her own will, and respected no rights save those of her own subjects; when, in short, Mohammedans waged unrelenting war with everyone not of their own creed. With such a State and such a people it was not easy to deal. Wherever Turks found the persons or goods of their enemies (for neighbours they had, and tolerated, none, and their enemies meant the whole human race except the believers in the Prophet of Mecca) they were seized, the one being appropriated to the uses of the



SIR ROBERT NAPIER, G.C.B., G.C.F.I., LATE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ABYSSINIAN EXPEDITION. (FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY EDWIN SUTTON.)

captors, and the other kept in cruel bondage. Their corsairs scoured the seas, and the mariners of the West ventured on a voyage filled with a wholesome dread of the rovers of Tunis and Barbary. That was in days prior to Cromwell and the English Commonwealth. In course of time, however, things changed somewhat. The strong arm of the Faithful became weakened; the great Protector taught them, as well as others, a lesson of moderation. The Turk began to admit of peaceable, if not friendly, intercourse with other peoples. Traders resorted to the ports and merchants settled in the cities of Turkey. But the old spirit still animated the Sultan and his subjects. They considered it no sin to wrong, oppress, rob, and defraud "Christian dogs," whenever and wherever an opportunity was afforded. But unbelievers were not disposed to submit to wrong in silence; and, as they could not obtain redress from Turks individually, the nations of the West compelled the Orientals to grant certain privileges to strangers sojourning amongst them. These were called Capitulations, and among the most important of them were exemption from taxation (except customs duties on goods imported or exported) and independence of Turkish law and freedom from the jurisdiction of Turkish officials. Hence arose the institutions called Consular Courts, in which all disputes between foreigners, or between them and natives, were tried and decided. As the power of Turkey and her dependencies declined, the influence of the Consuls and the jurisdiction of their courts increased, until at last they have become a serious obstacle to the administration of justice. The evil is the greater from the fact that all who can under any pretext attach themselves to a Consulate may claim the immunities accorded to foreigners; and when we remember how numerous in every large town in Turkey and Egypt the Consulships of foreign nations are, and how ready some Consuls may be to extend their protection to all claimants, we may form some notion of how extensive the inconvenience has become to the rulers of Mohammedan countries, and how difficult it may be to get a change of system introduced. Multitudes of men of all nations are interested in keeping things as they are, while only Turks and Egyptians are concerned in obtaining an alteration.

As we have said, the question, at present, is confined to Egypt; but the same system obtains and the same evils exist in every part of Turkey; and the same principles must govern the reforms introduced. And that some reform must be introduced ere long is inevitable. In no other country in the world, having the slightest pretensions to independence, would the existing system be tolerated. Nowhere else could men live, enjoy the benefits of government, reap the fruits of social improvements, have the benefit of police guardianship (such as it is), and of roads and other means of travelling (such as they are) without contributing to the support of the institutions of the country or being amenable to its laws. The state of things that obtained in the olden time is now reversed. If a native wrongs a foreigner, he may be punished by native law; but if a foreigner wrongs a native, he screens himself behind the privileges conferred by the ancient capitulations and the power of his Consul. In fact, the laws of Turkey and Egypt have become of none effect, so far as foreigners are concerned.

Now, as no Western nation, and least of all Great Britain, would tolerate such a system within its own dominions, it is but just that like rules of action as we claim for ourselves should be accorded to the rulers of the Ottoman Empire. Circumstances have changed, and the laws regulating the intercourse of the Turks with strangers sojourning in their land should change with them. Civilisation, order, law, and authority have spread in the East. Foreigners residing in or visiting the Ottoman Empire are no longer subject to the old oppressions; their persons and property are about as safe there as elsewhere; if they suffer wrong, they are as likely to obtain redress from the ordinary tribunals in Egypt and Turkey as in other parts of the civilised world; and they are, consequently, no longer entitled to the old immunities. A recent writer on this subject remarks:—"All Englishmen will easily understand the position of a person residing in a country towards the expenses of which he is not bound to contribute, and to the laws of which he is not compelled to render obedience; but there are few, of those who have not visited the Ottoman empire, who are, perhaps, aware that there are in Turkey a very considerable number of individuals—neither British born nor of British origin, neither speaking our language nor understanding our laws—who, under the present system of consular jurisdiction, claim the protection of our flag when the occasion answers, and thus contribute not a little to the difficulties which arise every now and then between the Consuls and the Ottoman authorities. Considered simply from our own point of view, this is a state of things sufficiently serious; but when the number of Consulates necessarily existing in every large town is borne in mind, the magnitude of the evil, as it affects the Turkish Government, becomes at once apparent. The entire system of consular protection in the Ottoman empire requires revision. It cannot be sustained for one moment that, if the whole of the extraordinary immunities contained in the capitulations were swept suddenly away, the persons and property of foreigners in Turkey would be less safe than they are at present. Nor can analogy be adduced in proof of the assertion that the destruction of the ancient capitulations would injuriously interfere with the integrity of the consular power or the effective protection of its subjects. The perplexing position in which the Turkish Administration is

placed towards the consular body, and the difficulties which the latter experience between their desire to do that which is obviously right and yet make no admission calculated to injure the infallibility of their office, are evidences of the mischief which the system entails."

Some change must be made in the system of consular jurisdiction in the East, if we of the Western World would retain any semblance of a desire to do unto others as we not only wish, but insist upon, others doing unto us. We cannot insist on maintaining a system of privileges and immunities for our subjects in Turkey and Egypt which we would not concede for a moment to Turks and Egyptians resident amongst us. The necessity for exceptional regulations and special jurisdictions having passed away, these exceptional institutions must in fairness cease to exist; or at least be greatly modified. What the change introduced shall be, and how it shall be brought about, we leave to those in authority and specially conversant with the East to determine; but we do hope that Lord Stanley, or whoever may happen to fill his place, will give his best consideration to the matter, and not allow this new Eastern question to attain such proportions as may lead to grave complications and difficulties hereafter.

SIR ROBERT NAPIER, G.C.B., G.C.S.I.

SIR ROBERT NAPIER, G.C.B., G.C.S.I. (as we learn from Debreit's "Baronetage and Knightage"), is the son of Major C.F. Napier, of the Royal Artillery, by Catharine, daughter of Codrington Carrington, Esq., of Blackmans, Barbadoes. Born 1810, he was educated at Addiscombe Military College, and entered the Bengal Engineers in 1827, became Captain in 1841, served throughout the Sutlej campaign of 1845-6, was chief engineer at Moodkee (horse killed) and at Ferozeshah, where he was severely wounded (horse killed); Brigadier-Major of Engineers at Sohraon, and in the subsequent advance on Lahore, for which he received a medal and clasps, with the rank of Brevet Major, 1846; was appointed chief engineer to conduct the siege of the hill fort of Kangra the same year, and received the special thanks of Government for his services in the transport of the siege-train to that place. Was chief engineer during part of the siege of Multan, 1849, and was severely wounded. Commanding engineer of the right wing of the army of the Punjab at the battle of Goojerat, and in Sir Walter Gilbert's pursuit of the Sikh army, for which service he received a medal and clasps, with the rank of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel. As chief civil engineer of the Punjab, organised and initiated an extensive series of public works, which were honourably acknowledged by the late Lord Dalhousie. Commanded a column which defeated the Hussunzie tribe on the Black Mountain in Hazara, 1852; was present with the expedition against the Boree Afreedees, 1852-3, and received the special thanks of Government. Chief of Sir James Outram's Staff, 1857, and was present in the several actions leading to the first relief of Lucknow, Mungulwar, Alumbagh, and Charbagh; commanded the troops in the rescue of the siege-train, which had been surrounded and cut off in the suburbs, the sortie for the capture of Philip's garden battery, and other separate operations; was present as Chief of the Staff in the latter operations at the Alumbagh, and Brigadier and Chief Engineer at the siege of Lucknow, 1858, in which year he was made a C.B.; commanded a brigade at the capture of Gwalior; defeated Tantia Topee at Joura Alipoor, and captured twenty-five guns; when in command of the Gwalior division, bombarded and reduced the fort of Powrie; after five days' close pursuit, surprised and defeated, with a squadron of the 14th Dragoons, Ferozeshah's force at Ranode. Commanded the second division of the China expeditionary army in the action of Sinho; was present at Tanko. With his division and the whole of the artillery, in conjunction with the French Division of General Collineau, he directed the operations ending in the storm of the North Taku Fort, and the advance on and occupation of Peking. He twice received the thanks of Parliament; was a member of the Supreme Council of India 1861-5, and was made a K.C.B. in the latter year, a G.C.S.I. 1867, a G.C.B. 1868. He was appointed to the chief command of the Abyssinian expedition 1867, which he has so recently conducted to a successful issue.

Sir Robert Napier's mother, Catharine Carrington, was sister of the late Sir Edmund Carrington, formerly of Chalfont, Berks, and of the Castle House, Calne—disposed of, with the Parliamentary interest attached to it, to Lord Lansdowne, in 1810. Catharine and Sir Edmund were the children of Codrington Carrington, of the Barbadoes estates, and descended in a direct line from Edward de Carynton, who went out to the plantations in the time of Sir Walter Raleigh, and settled in Barbadoes; the estate of Carynton Hall, Cheshire, having gone by marriage to the Booths of Durham Massy, the heiress of Carynton having married George Booth, first Lord Delamere and Earl of Warrington. Their daughter married Grey, Earl of Stamford; and the Carrington family in the female line is represented by the present Earl of Stamford and Warrington. The Carrington property in the male line is represented not only by the old Barbadoes estate, but by that of Missenden Abbey, Bucks.

Sir Robert Napier visited the Crystal Palace on Wednesday and was enthusiastically welcomed by the visitors, some 30,000 of whom were present to do him honour. If longer notice had been given to the public the attendance would probably have been doubled.

It is understood that Sir Robert is about to be raised to the Peerage, under the title of Baron Napier of Magdala, and that he will be gazetted in a few days. Meanwhile Sir Robert has been pleased to accept the freedom of the city of London, which was recently voted to him by acclamation, with a sword of great value, by the Court of Common Council; and it has been arranged between him and the Lord Mayor that the ceremony of conferring this mark of distinction shall be conducted in Guildhall, on Tuesday, the 21st inst. The committee of the Corporation charged with providing the sword have resolved to expedite its manufacture accordingly. The Lord Mayor will entertain Sir Robert and a distinguished party at the Mansion House in the evening of the same day.

THE CONSERVATIVE GRADUATES who will be entitled to a vote at the election of a member for the University of London have passed a resolution to support Mr. Lowe.

THE SON OF THEODORE has taken very kindly to English customs, wearing a sailor's dress, of which he is evidently very proud, and handling a knife and fork at the dinner-table with as much gravity and decorum as if he had been to the manner born, although Abyssinia goes upon the principle that "fingers were made before forks." He seems a very intelligent, nice little fellow, and has become a great favourite.

THE ROYAL DRAMATIC COLLEGE FETE.—The annual fête and fancy fair in aid of the funds of the Royal Dramatic College at Maybury will take place at the Crystal Palace to-day (Saturday) and Monday next. The programme promises entertainment not less varied and attractive than on former occasions. Richardson's Show, with a romantic melodrama of the true Richardsonian type, will, as usual, be a prominent feature of the revels; but there will likewise be dramatic performances of a more legitimate and dignified class, in which some leading actors, chiefly of the Adelphi, Strand, and Queen's Theatres will take part. Mr. Heller, the American humourist; Mr. and Mrs. Rubini, the well-known "magicians;" Chang, the Chinese giant; Mdlle. Miriam, the infant pianiste; and the "White Lilies of the Prairie" will also lend their services. There will be, as in former years, a "Fairy Post-office," together with a "Pauley-Tooley-Technic Institution, Japanese-Chinese Jugglers, Punch and Judy shows, and a host of minor miscellaneous entertainments. The bazaar of fancy wares will be arranged in the central transept, and Mdlle. Schneider will preside at one of the stalls.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The long debate in the French Legislative Body was brought to a close on Monday, so far as the supplementary credits for 1867 are concerned, the said credit being passed by 218 votes against 11. The House then proceeded to take into consideration the supplementary credits for 1868, and an amendment to reduce by 100,000f. the amount granted to charitable purposes was rejected. In the course of the debate M. Rouher entered into the various phases of the financial question. Referring to a reproach uttered by M. Jules Favre that France was on a footing of armed peace, M. Rouher said, "The present strength of our army is the effective peace strength. In all circumstances, and in all countries, in Greece, in the Danubian Principalities, as much as in our relations towards Germany, we have always upheld the principle of the pacification and independence of nations. The improvement of our arms is but an indispensable guarantee against war. We have need to be ready for all eventualities; and it would be imprudent to leave a great nation like France exposed, without the power of defending her honour and her flag if their defence became necessary. The Government has no *arrière-pensée*. In its eyes, peace is the great condition of civilisation, and war a great calamity. The Government is at one with the Opposition and with the majority in its desire for peace; but to wish for peace is not to conclude in favour of disarmament. The Government has not the same confidence as M. Jules Favre in the fraternal sentiments of peoples."

The Emperor has ordered one fifth of the army to be sent home on furlough, immediately after the general inspection.

SPAIN.

The Ministerial journal *L'Esperanza* states that the Government has advised the Queen to cause the Duke and Duchess de Montpensier to leave the country. It also states that several Generals are to be exiled. In fact, the Generals have already been arrested. Amongst the greatest are several well-known persons, who have acted a conspicuous part in Spanish affairs, such as Marshal Serrano (the Duke de la Torre) and Generals Dulce, Cordova, and Zabala. For some time, especially since the death of Narvaez, a report was current in Europe that a revolutionary movement was preparing in the Peninsula, and that all parties who were opposed to the system of reaction, compression, and terror, inaugurated by the Duke of Valencia, and continued by his colleague and successor, Gonzales Bravo, had united for the purpose of making a last effort to upset it. About a month ago there was a premature report of a rising in Catalonia. If, as is reported, the arrested Generals were in league with the extreme parties who are plotting the overthrow of Queen Isabella's throne, we may expect to hear some serious news.

An arrangement has been made by which French ships will in future pay the same navigation dues at the Spanish colonies as ships belonging to Spanish subjects.

SWITZERLAND.

A reciprocal agreement has been entered into between Switzerland and the Pontifical States, whereby the two Governments have secured for their subjects the same privileges of trading and the same right of residence in each other's territory as are enjoyed by the subjects of the most favoured nations.

ITALY.

Negotiations have commenced between delegates of the Prussian and Italian Governments for the conclusion of a postal convention. The South German States will be invited to participate in the negotiations.

HOLLAND.

At the sitting of the Second Chamber on the 3rd inst., the debate came on upon the bill modifying the concession to cut a canal effecting a junction between the German Ocean and the Zuyder Zee. Article 3, stipulating that if the parties to whom the concession was granted should not succeed in effecting the work it should be completed by the State, was rejected by a very large majority. The bill in its entirety was passed by 46 to 19 votes.

PRUSSIA.

Count Platen Hallermund, Foreign Minister of the ex-King of Hanover, has been condemned for high treason by the High Court of Justice of Berlin to fifteen years' imprisonment and ten years' subsequent surveillance. The sentence was passed upon him in his absence.

AUSTRIA.

Baron Beust's despatch to the Austrian Ambassador at the Papal Court, replying to the recent Allocation of the Pope, emphatically protests against the "incomprehensible and unjustifiable interference of the Pope in the province of home legislation," and throws upon the Court of Rome the "responsibility of having aroused religious passions which might create a deplorable conflict."

The War Minister of the empire has ordered the immediate furlough of twenty men per company, by which a reduction in the army of 36,000 men will be effected.

SERBIA.

Prince Milan was solemnly crowned as Sovereign of Serbia, in the cathedral of Belgrade, last Saturday. The representatives of the foreign Powers were present on the occasion.

The Skuptschina has resolved that Prince Alexander Kara-georgewich and his descendants shall never be permitted to occupy the Serbian throne. Before closing its Session, the Skuptschina adopted the following motions:—"1. At least one Skuptschina yearly shall be convoked until the coming of age of Prince Milan. 2. The authorities and officials appointed by Prince Michael shall continue to hold their posts. 3. A monument to the late Prince Michael shall be erected in the Topchieder Park by popular contribution. 4. Efforts shall be made to develop the defensive strength of the country as speedily as possible, according to the plan proposed by the deceased Prince. 5. Investigation shall be made into the state of the police in Belgrade. 6. Every Serbian shall be responsible for the life of Prince Milan. 7. The Government shall strictly observe the friendly relations with foreign Powers cultivated by Prince Michael."

Captain Nenadovic, brother-in-law of Prince Alexander Kara-georgewich, was executed on Monday for complicity in the murder of Prince Michael.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Democratic National Convention, which assembled at New York on Saturday last, pronounces in favour of the taxation of United States Bonds and the payment in currency of the bonds of all public debts, except where payment in coin is expressly stipulated; and declares that naturalised American citizens abroad enjoy equal rights with native-born subjects of the States.

The anniversary of the declaration of American independence was celebrated throughout the Union last Saturday, and President Johnson signalled the national fête by issuing a proclamation pardoning all participants in the Southern rebellion except those indicted for treason-felony.

The delegates from Arkansas have been admitted to seats in the House of Representatives. The Democratic members have protested against their admission, declaring that they have been forced upon the State by military rule, under circumstances destructive of the principles of constitutional government.

President Johnson has nominated Mr. Everts Attorney-General. It is reported that Thaddeus Stevens is preparing new articles of impeachment against President Johnson, but will not press action thereon until next Session.

The Federal authorities at New Orleans have arrested one hundred persons suspected of being filibusters, and about to embark for Mexico in the interest of Santa Anna.

CHINA.

At the date of the latest advices from China by the overland mail, Tien-Tsin was in danger of attack from 30,000 rebels who made their appearance before the walls on April 27, and were in full command of the surrounding country. The Imperialists had 8000 troops within the city, and were confident of their ability to hold it. The British, French, and Russians were taking steps to secure the lives and property of foreigners in case of attack.

JAPAN.

Official advices from Japan state that the delegates of the Mikado, appointed to take possession of Yokohama, and to negotiate the questions still pending with the foreign Ministers, had presented themselves at the French Legation, where they renewed before the diplomatic representatives the assurance of the desire of the Japanese Government to entertain the best relations with the foreign Powers.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

From the Cape we learn that the decision of the Free State Volksraad to oppose Sir P. E. Wodehouse's movement in adopting the Basutos as British subjects, and resisting the States' claims upon Basutoland, had come to maturity. The Rev. G. Vandewall, a native of Holland, who had spent many years in the United States, and is now a minister of the Dutch Reform Church in the Free State, and Commandant de Villiers, a Dutch Afrikaner farmer, had been deputed by the majority of the Volksraad to proceed to England with special and secret instructions. It is understood that they have full power and authority to wait upon and solicit the good offices of Russia, America, Spain, Holland, or any other foreign Power, in the event of England refusing or failing to do what the Volksraad considered justice in the matter of the protest. The deputies were to leave Cape Town by the mail steamer on June 19.

THE CHICHESTER TRAINING-SHIP.

A PARTY of between 300 and 400 ladies and gentlemen, who were conveyed by rail and boat, assisted on Wednesday at the annual fête and distribution of prizes on board the Chichester training-ship, lying off Greenhithe, Kent. They were received by the interesting crew in true naval style; and, after due justice had been done to an elegant luncheon, served up between decks, both the boys, to the number of over one hundred and sixty, and their visitors assembled on the quarter-deck, and proceeded, under the presidency of the Earl of Shaftesbury, to enlighten themselves upon the history and prospects of the embryo sailors. Captain Alston, R.N., their commander, made a highly satisfactory report of their discipline and conduct; and then Mr. William Williams, the energetic secretary of the Refuges for Homeless and Destitute Boys and Girls, of which the Chichester is a branch, related how the ship was inaugurated at the close of 1866, and that since then 250 boys had been received on board, of whom over 100 had been successfully engrafted on the naval and mercantile services. There boys had a thorough affection for their training-ship, and the accounts received of their progress showed that they are jealous of her reputation. Last year 139 ladies contributed £15 each for the maintenance of as many boys; a gentleman had in like manner supported six others; while the cadets of the neighbouring ship Worcester had made up £15 out of their pocket-money for another. The prizes, consisting of writing-desks, knives, bronze medals, and money rewards, the latter given by Mr. T. Macgregor, of the Rob Roy, having been distributed, the noble chairman spoke in warm terms of the great good the ship was effecting. It was draining our streets of a degraded and dangerous class, and converting them into honourable and useful members of society. The ship, in fact, was a nursery for supplying the Navy and merchantmen with boys who could not be surpassed for steadiness and good conduct. Its usefulness was only limited by its means, and, with sufficient funds, from 10,000 to 20,000 homeless and destitute lads could be rescued from the grasp of the policeman, and not a few probably from the grip of the hangman. Mr. Williams said his Lordship indulged in no exaggeration. The society, however, could do no more at present than place out about three a week, or 150 a year, the calculation for 1868. One of the lads named Costigan recited some verses of his own composition in honour of the occasion; and the boys, besides going through a variety of evolutions, sang sea-ballads, danced hornpipes, and did everything to show the efficiency of their training and general contentment. At the conclusion of these proceedings, the company returned to their steam-boat; and for some minutes after she had got under way the voices of the lads, who had again manned the yards of their ship, came wafted over the stream in the words of the familiar song, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot?" There was one drawback to the pleasure of the trip, but that was only temporary—it was the horrid stench of the southern outfall.

LORD TAUNTON will move in the House of Lords, on Monday, that no railway bill that proposes to raise the rates now payable on the conveyance of goods or passengers shall be read the second time until a special report from the Board of Trade on the subject shall have been laid on the table of the House.

TABLETS have been fixed in front of No. 16, Holles-street, and of No. 3A, King-street, St. James's-square, recording that Lord Byron once lived in the first-named house, and the Emperor Napoleon III. in the second. Leave has been obtained to affix similar tablets in front of the former residences of Lord Nelson, Benjamin Franklin, James Barry, and other celebrated individuals.

HOW THE POOR ARE ROBBED.—Mr. C. M. Owen, chief of the Oxfordshire constabulary, in his report to the county magistrates, thus states the results of an investigation made by the county inspectors of weights and measures relative to the short weight of bread delivered to the poor in receipt of outdoor relief by the bakers who contract for the various unions in the county. In the Banbury Union nine quarter loaves were 24 oz. deficient. In the Bicester Union, fifty-five quarter loaves were 12 oz. short. In the Chipping Norton Union, 325 were 22 oz. short. In the Headington Union, thirty-two were of light weight by 3 oz. In the Witney Union eighty-six were short, wanting 204 oz. In the Woodstock Union nine were deficient of 24 oz. In the Burford district of the Witney Union, 118 quarter loaves were 12 oz. short. The total deficiency in 634 loaves was 1684 oz. A discussion ensued, in which the vice-chairman (Mr. Thornhill), Mr. Henley, the Revs. W. C. Risley, T. Curme, and Mr. Piret took part. It was resolved to send the report to the different boards of guardians, and also that the matter should be laid before the Poor-Law Board.

CARDINAL CULLEN ON IRELAND.—In the course of a lecture to the students of the Catholic University, Cardinal Cullen contended that if Catholic education had not been prohibited in Ireland, she might long since have had her Dantes, her Tassos and Ariostos, her Shakespeares and Miltons, her Raffenelles and Michael Angelos. The University of Dublin had sometimes been called the Silent Sister, and they might safely say, in conformity with an assertion of Gibbon, that one Benedictine monastery, had it been allowed to exist, would have done more for science and arts and the preservation of ancient literature than many such rich Universities. It was surprising, having Trinity College, that the Irish Protestant Church had not given to the world a vast Protestant ecclesiastical literature; that it had not produced great Church historians, great theologians, or great commentators on the sacred volume. The words of a distinguished professor of Scripture confirmed what he said. After a diligent search through all the bibliographical indexes within his reach, and in Horne's "Introduction," last edition, where the index is very complete, he could not find the name of one Irishman trained and serving in the Anglo-Irish Church who had published a comment on even one chapter in the Bible. He did not speak of such men as Bramhall, Bedell, Jeremy Taylor, Jebb, Mant, Whately and Trench, educated abroad, and imported into Ireland because Irishmen could not be found for their places. He spoke of the sons of the Irish Church. The curse of barrenness had blighted the whole life of the Irish Church Establishment, and the just sentence was at length heard, "Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?" Speaking of education, the Cardinal added:—"A host of distinguished writers, both lay and clerical, such as Cardinal Bonhoeffer and the Bishops of Orleans and Poitiers, the celebrated Montalembert, De Falloux, De Breglie, Louis Veuillot, and hundreds of others, are defending in the most eloquent strains the rights of Catholics to free schools and a free University. What shall I say of Prussia, which, after long and persevering attempts to introduce mixed or irreligious education, is now retracing its steps, making concessions to Catholics, and fully acknowledging their claims? Is it not, then, manifest that the continent of Europe the school is emancipating itself from State control?"

THE CAMP AT WIMBLEDON.

CAMP life has begun in earnest on Wimbledon-common. There is, indeed, little to show that its occupation is but temporary; for the preparations made and being made for the volunteers are of a character which would befit a prolonged residence, and seem almost disproportionate to a tenancy of a few days. But, inasmuch as the soldiers and officers of the Scots Fusiliers and of the Royal Engineers have been already encamped some time, and as the Victorias and the London Scottish have now joined them—as, moreover, many tents will be occupied long after the week during which the association prizes are shot for, it would seem that life in camp is becoming more and more popular for its own sake, and that firing at the butts or practising military evolutions are mere auxiliaries to a prolonged summer jaunt. Nor must our volunteers be too fervently congratulated on their hardihood and gallantry in forsaking home comforts for the privations and annoyances of an out-of-door life. "Roughing it in camp" has a pretty but delusive sound, so far as Wimbledon-common is concerned. The luxuries of a well-appointed home, combined with the free-and-easy jollity of an unusually social club, are perhaps the words expressing volunteer life on Wimbledon-common most accurately. Leaving the main road between Putney and the camp, and striking off to the right from Putney, we come upon the London Scottish encampment first. The wooden palings are already up round the portion of the common to be inclosed by the association, but the gates and pay-places are not yet fixed; and, passing through one of the openings near the main road, we steer in the direction of the famous windmill, where the vast array of white canvas and blue and white boards and canopies is glistening in the sun. A stroll across the turf brings us to the Scottish camp; and to assuage the anxiety of such mothers and wives as are uneasy as to the hardships being undergone by their dear ones, it will perhaps be useful to state something of what was to be seen there on Monday afternoon. Tents were fixed—rows of small ones for sleeping, and larger ones for various purposes. The former are of the umbrella type, and the latter like so many canvas barns. They are pitched with great regularity, and make unbroken lines and squares. The gallant volunteers, their kilted occupants, are gathered about them, and, with mallet in hand, give a shrewd eye of inspection and many a carefully considered tap to ropes and pegs. This mallet is so much an institution at this stage of camp life that when not in active use it is stuck in the belt behind, and the volunteers seem to have added a new and ponderous weapon to their stock. The tents needing further adjustment have the whole skill of the force brought to bear upon them. One volunteer may be seen crawling on his stomach, with a measuring tape, to see that the distance they are apart is mathematically correct. The muffled voices of others may be heard from the inside, as with grunts and groans they pull or drive some rope or stake into its place. Others, again, are sweeping up or pulling down, or giving general advice and supervision. Councils of war are being held in twenty places at once, in which the experienced camp-squatter lays down the law and proffers advice to his companions in arms. Everyone is busy. The loose, lounging coat of honest grey, the bright blue waistcoats, the kilts and bonnets of these gentlemen all look serviceable and appropriate amid the heather and ferns; and the crowd of visitors in conventional broadcloth who were squandered about the camp on Sunday might have envied the superior ease and comfort of the volunteer costume. But it is necessary to peep inside the tents to understand what our amateur soldiers mean by camping out. Many of these are perfect nests of luxury. "Roughing it" at Wimbledon is, to what is generally conveyed by the phrase, what the country-house battue is to tiger-hunting in the jungle. Iron bedsteads, Persian rugs, Turkey carpets, flowered dressing gowns, portmanteaus, dressing-cases, tables, easy-chairs, mirrors, vases of flowers, books, chests of drawers, scented soap, pomades, baths, blankets, waterproofs, rugs, and wraps innumerable go to form the contents of some of these volunteer tents. The central pole supporting them, which is to the entire structure what the stick is to the parasol or umbrella, is adorned with military weapons and accoutrements, or with ornaments, according to the owner's taste. Armorial bearings blazoned on a gay little flag are adopted at one tent; caps, accoutrements, and smoking-jackets are pendent at another; while in all of them such an abundance of the nick-nacks of comfort may be discerned as to convince the most sceptical that one of the first arts of modern volunteering is taking care of oneself. Most of the sleeping and dwelling tents are shared between a couple of volunteers, whose snug iron bedsteads stand to right and left of the entrance, and whose various properties intercept the view by filling up the background. The chests of drawers are no temporary make-believes, but the veritable articles, in mahogany or painted deal, which are sold and offered to young people about to marry. These tents are ranged in long rows, so as to form canvas quadrangles and streets or lanes. The cooking-shed and the mess-tent are more elaborate, and the latter is of vast size. A brick cooking-range has been built up, and an elaborate stove and apparatus fitted in for the kitchen, which stands apart. Vessels of various size, iron and tin, are being busily cleaned and polished, while the dinner-service is washed and ranged in order on the grass outside. We have spoken of this department as a shed; but it is a substantial enough little house, and from the number of active men and lads to be seen at work cooking and preparing there on Sunday and Monday, we have little doubt that the tables of the large mess-tent are as handsomely provided as they are commodious and well appointed. Waiters in the conventional black suits and white cravats are busily arranging vases of flowers upon the snowy cloth. Ornate moderator-lamps swing from the roof. The floor is boarded and raised some inches from the turf. The head and antlers of a departed deer decorate its main entrance, and the Scottish mess-tent looks thoroughly what it is—a club-room, of which the temporary character might easily be forgotten. The Victorias are on the other side of a fern-covered hollow, and stand more completely behind the windmill. From their section of the camp the trees of Richmond Park, the church at Sheen, the Robin Hood Gate, and the splendid range of foliage known as Combe Wood, are all to be seen over the wild and broken common in the foreground. On Sunday the energies of this corps were devoted to its flagstaff. This stands in the centre of an open space, with the tents of the volunteers on one side, and the mess-tent, store-tent, and "mess-tent for shooters" on the other. A provision wagon and an extensive range of underground ovens spoke volumes as to the hospitable intentions of the Victorias; and the gastronomical prowess displayed at the early dinner on Sunday, as well as at the "thick tea" in the evening, was in itself a tribute to the health-inspiring air of the common. What the consumption of tobacco is at these gatherings would be an interesting point for statisticians; while its effects upon the eyes and nerves of shooters would be a useful problem for physiologists. Every man seems to smoke, and to smoke a short pipe, be his labours what they may. The military servants smoke as they peel potatoes or empty slops. The volunteer smokes while in his bath, while cleaning his gun, and during the process of dressing. The flagstaff of the Victorias was perfected under difficult circumstances, under the inspiration of tobacco. It had been put up without a rope or pulley by which to send the banner of the corps waving from its summit. It was lofty and tapering, and the men about it were stalwart and heavy. To swarm up it was, as one stout volunteer found who tried it, dizzy and dangerous. To keep the flagstaff there without a flag was felt to be an absurdity; while to pull it down for the sake of putting a rope through the little hole at its top was seen to be a work of labour and time. The news of the difficulty of the Victorias spread, and smokers came from various portions of the camp to offer grave suggestions, until more than a hundred people stood around. "Fire a bullet through the hole with a rope tied to it," cried one natural philosopher. "Throw the flag over it and let it stick there," whispered another; but the collective wisdom of the smoking conclave prevailed eventually, and the decision that as a boy is lighter than a man so a boy should be found to climb the spar rope-in-hand

was listened to with respect. After one failure this hint was acted on, and the Wimbledon camp was gratified with the assurance that the Victorias' banner would soon be floating in the breeze.

A walk towards Wimbledon from this spot takes the visitor through the camp itself. There is wonderfully little variety in the externals of Canvastown, and the long rows of white tents recall the festival of preceding years very vividly. The bear-kins stuck by themselves on pegs outside their owners' tents show the whereabouts of the Guards, and a printed signboard puts the matter beyond dispute a little further on. The Royal Engineers are stationed still nearer the windmill, and adjoining its grounds is an officer's tent which will inspire envy and admiration. Not satisfied with making its interior comfortable, its gallant occupant has had a space of the common in front of it inclosed as a flower garden. Here are plants in full flower, ornamental rustic vases and baskets, while a stone water-god blows his little stream aloft from an artificial lake of some 4 ft. by 2 ft. Water has been laid on for the purpose, and the ingenious owner sees from his tent door, or from the elaborate canvas porch he has had built round it, what is a fair imitation of a cottage garden upon a hilipitane scale. But these are slight examples of the activity and energy to be seen on all sides in the camp. The old tramway has been laid down. The huge general refreshment building is fitted up, and, judging from the hundreds of buyers and the number of servants we saw busy, must be already doing a brisk trade. The sanitary arrangements of the camp are complete, the police station is erected, the news-room and club, the clock-stand, the scientific apparatus for estimating the effect of wind and weather, the various "faucy" tents for distinguished visitors, and for divers purposes, are all on the ground. In short, Wimbledon camp, a week before the meeting, is almost as gay and busy as if that meeting were in full swing, and the volunteers who take up their abode in it now find ample occupation and no little amusement ready to their hands.

THE HOURS OF POLLING AT ELECTIONS.—At a meeting of the London Working Men's Association, on Tuesday evening—Mr. George Potter in the chair—it was resolved that a deputation from the committee of the association should wait upon the metropolitan members for the purpose of inducing them to move and support a clause in the Corrupt Practices Bill extending the hours of polling until eight p.m., so that the large numbers of working men employed during the day at long distances from their homes may have the power of recording their votes on returning from work.

A CLERICAL FRACAS.—A strange case came before the Wexford quarter sessions the other day. The Rev. Mr. Helham, Vicar of a parish in Kilkenny, having for sufficient reasons found it necessary to become non-resident, the Bishop of the diocese appointed the Rev. Mr. Reeves, a Curate, to take charge of the parish at a salary of £80 a year, together with the use of the glebe. A few months ago the Vicar desired to resume, if not the spiritual care of the parishioners, at least possession of the glebe and enjoyment of the net income. He tried to take possession, but the Curate, strong in his legal right, resisted, and the Reverend Vicar was at length removed by the police. The Vicar thereupon brought an action for assault, but the magistrates decided in the Curate's favour.

ACCOUCHARMENT OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES.—The Princess of Wales was safely delivered of a Princess at half-past four o'clock on Monday. Her Royal Highness and the infant Princess are going on perfectly well. The Queen, accompanied by Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse and Princess Louise, left Windsor at eleven o'clock on Monday and visited the Princess of Wales at Marlborough House. The Prince of Wales's family now numbers four, viz., Albert Victor Charles Edward, born Jan. 8, 1864; George Frederick Ernest Albert, born June 3, 1865; Louise Victoria Alexandrina Dagmar, born Feb. 20, 1867; and the Princess, as yet unnamed, whose birth formed the subject of congratulations at Marlborough House on Monday.

RETIRING M.P.S.—A large number of Parliamentary veterans have decided not to seek re-election to the new House of Commons. In the list are many who have been members of Parliament ever since the ten pounders in boroughs and the fifty pounders in counties have exercised the franchise under the provisions of the Act of 1832. Amongst the hon. members who will retire is Lord Rotham, who is seventy-four years of age. His Lordship and Colonel Peers Williams, the senior representative of Great Marlow, may be termed the joint fathers of the House of Commons, for both have been in Parliament forty-eight years. Lord Rotham has during that long period successively represented Leominster and the East Riding of Yorkshire, while Colonel Williams has sat uninterruptedly for the constituency which he now represents.

DEATH OF A MORMON SAINT.—Heber C. Kimball, the distinguished saint and second president of the Mormon Church, died at Salt Lake City, Utah, on the 21st ult. He was a native of Vermont, in which State he was born on June 14, 1801. In 1832 he became a convert to Mormonism, and followed the fortunes of Joseph Smith, the "prophet," with marked fidelity. He soon attained to high position, and was sent to England on the first mission. Here he met with considerable success, making many converts, and inducing them to emigrate to the United States. After holding various positions in the "church," he eventually became one of its three presidents, Brigham Young and D. H. Wells being the other two. We must not omit to mention that his family is quite large, his wives and children numbering, at last accounts, sixty persons.—"New York Herald," June 23.

THE RIGHTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS.—The New York papers of the 25th publish the following despatch from Mr. Seward to the representative of the United States in London:—"Department of State, Washington, D. C., June 22, 1868. Sir,—The correspondence recorded in your legation is full of remonstrance and expostulation, which, by the President's direction, I have addressed to her Majesty's Government, against the imprisonment of Messrs. Warren and Costello; and the reasons have been fully and frequently assigned why the judicial severity by the British Government in these cases has tended to embarrass the friendly relations between the two countries, and to protract the political excitement which has so greatly disturbed the peace of the British realm and of the British provinces adjacent to the United States. On many occasions I have had the honour to urge upon the British Government the necessity of a modification of the laws of the British realm, in the case of subjects of Great Britain who have become citizens of the United States under our naturalisation laws. By the President's direction, also, I have with much urgency invited the British Government to enter into an equal treaty with the United States on that subject, as a proceeding which is essential for the removal of discontents which, if suffered to continue, might involve the two nations in reprisal or war. Hitherto these proceedings have been unfruitful, although we have many friendly assurances of a favourable disposition on the part of the British Government. In connection with this matter, the President now makes it my duty to give you a copy of a resolution of the House of Representatives of the United States, which was passed on June 15. I further call your attention to the fact that a bill which has passed the House of Representatives is now engaging the attention of the Senate, the effect of which bill, if it shall become a law, will be to require the President to make reprisals, in case of judicial denial in Great Britain to naturalised Americans of the rights which are conceded by them to native American citizens. You will be expected to read the resolution referred to, together with the instruction, to her Majesty's principal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and to give him a copy of these papers if he shall require it."

BAUER'S SUBMARINE ARTILLERY.

WE have recently given some accounts of experiments with torpedoes, and the subject is still receiving perhaps more attention than properly belongs to it, except in countries like America, where the still shallow harbours and streams afford some opportunity for destroying ships lying off the shore by the use of these infernal machines, which explode at, or near to, the bed of the river, and can be fired from a distance. Our engraving this week represents one of the latest constructions of this kind, the invention of Wilhelm Bauer, some experiments with which have been made with a view to testing its efficacy and destructive power.

Many improvements have been made in the invention previous to the trials made in the Staubergersee, to which our engraving refers. The attention of Mr. Bauer seems first to have been directed to apparatus for raising sunken vessels—an inquiry which may be said to have been more useful in its way than that which relates only to destructive engines, and his success seems to have been established by the restoration of a trading steamer which was brought to the surface of the Bodensee by means of the apparatus which has since been associated with his name. The submarine gun, however, is an invention in another direction, constructed with the same ingenuity which characterises his apparatus for the recovery of wrecks, and promising to realise some still further results in the art of naval warfare. The machine consists of a sort of chamber containing the explosive material, which is of a most dangerous character; this being, in fact, the difficulty which presents itself in the use of the engine. This chamber

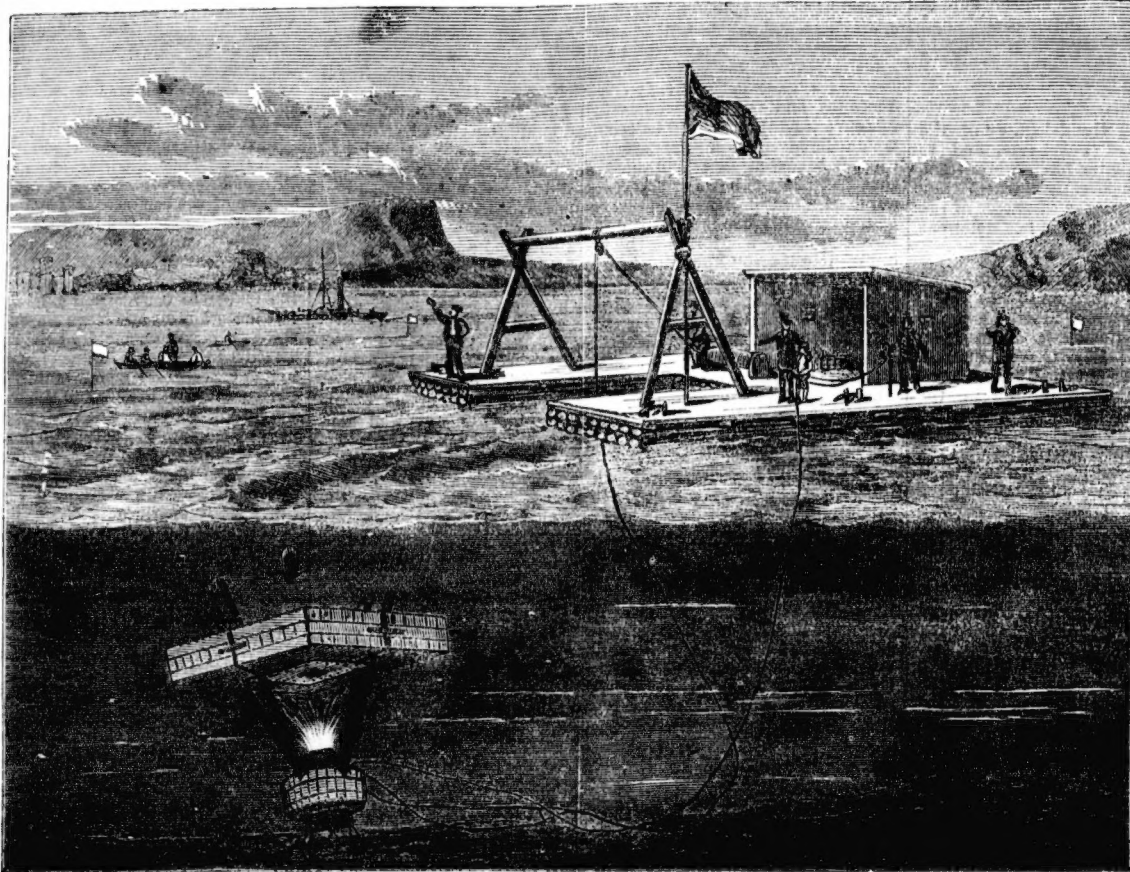
communicates with a kind of plughole, in which a conical bullet fits like a cork in a bottle. The whole apparatus is sunk and moored to its position, communication being maintained with an electric, or rather a galvanic, battery, which, during the experiments, occupied a kind of floating shed or raft-house on the Stau-bergersee. The explosion is effected almost instantaneously, and the tremendous force with which the bullet is ejected is sufficient to penetrate the bottom of almost any vessel against which it is directed.

NEW CONCERT-PAVILION KENSINGTON-GARDENS.

FASHIONABLE London has several pleasant places of outdoor resort. There is the "Zoo" for Sundays, the "Row" for every day—that is, every fine day—during the season; and on show days the company in the gardens of the Royal Horticultural, and Botanic Gardens vies with the flowers—perhaps outdoes them—in attractiveness. Then the gardens near the "old Court suburb" offer inducements to lose oneself and pass a pleasing hour, which it is difficult to resist. Fair women and "exquisite" men congregate there in crowds; show their bright faces; exhibit their fine clothes; flirt; look at the flowers; lounge about the gardens, and listen to the music discoursed by the band in attendance on gala occasions. The music, indeed, is not the least of the attractions these fine gardens offer; and in order that the visitors may enjoy it to the best advantage, a handsome concert-pavilion has recently been erected, which, we believe, admirably fulfils the purpose for which it was designed. Around this structure, comfortably disposed in chairs and under the shade of full-foliaged trees, and with blooming shrubs and flowers on every hand, the festive throng of fashionable loungers may enjoy a rare al fresco concert in luxurious and elegant ease. The soul that cannot melt in such a scene, at such a time, and under such circumstances, must be cold indeed; and we doubt not that many bits of pleasant flirtation, perhaps even occasionally real touches of love-making—in an elegant, refined way, of course—take place to the strains of dulcet music around the concert pavilion.

GREAT RAINSTORM IN ALGERIA.

OUR illustration represents one of those calamities, the frequent occurrence of which has lately so depressed the condition of the Algerian population. It would seem as though disease, and famine, and tempest, had each to do their work in that country before the



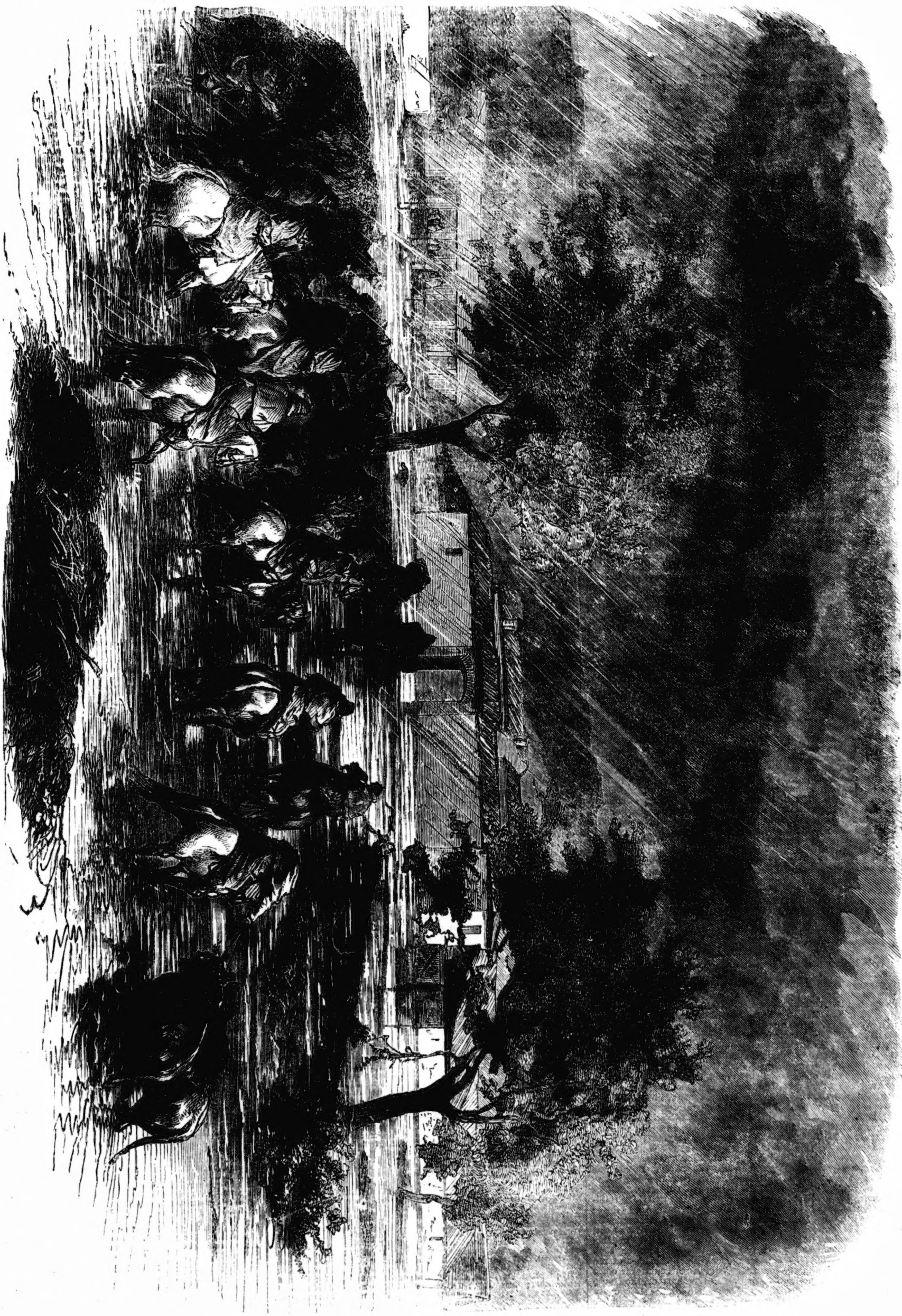
W. DAUER'S SUBMARINE GUN.

ameliorations proposed by the French Government can take effect, and in some districts the liability to these afflictions seems even more marked than in others. The occurrence which is the subject of our Engraving has taken place in that fruitful province of Oran, of which travellers in Algeria have so much to say. Following the coast to the west of Tenes, we come to the Darha district, part of which belongs to the subdivision of Mostaganem, and after passing the Djebel Minis, or mountain of salt, and the Zour-el-Hammam, we come to the mouth of the river Shellif, the largest and most celebrated stream in Algeria. A short distance to the west of the Shellif we come to Mostaganem, so called, according to Blofeld, from the sweetness of the mutton fed in its neighbourhood. Passing through a fine country, sheltered by a range of hills which bounds it to the south and south-east, the traveller reaches Mazagran, situated on the western declivity of a chain of hills within a furlong of the sea. A short distance beyond this place is the river Sigg, and the Habrah, another considerable stream, falls into it, the mouth of the latter being called El-Mockdah (the ford), which, except

it is in this place that the terrible storm of rain and hail has just destroyed the ripening harvests of the inhabitants. Peals of thunder and vivid flashes of lightning preceded the waterspouts; the river, swollen by the rapid torrents, almost inundated the plain; and the hail, driven by a south-east wind, fell on Relizanne and caused great destruction, the standing as well as the cut harvest being swept away and engulfed in the stream of the Shellif, which for days afterwards bore the wrecks of the fields upon its surface. The Chasseurs d'Afrique were prompt to go to the help of the farmers, and those of their band who were quartered at Relizanne immediately took horse and hastened to render assistance. The plain looked like a great lake, the sombre horizon lighted up every moment by lurid flashes. The floods were a metre above the bridge of Mina, and the courier from Algiers was detained for several hours. On the following day the calm which followed the tempest gave a melancholy opportunity for observing the terrible destruction which had been wrought in a short time by a tempest the fury of which will long be remembered by the sufferers.



NEW CONCERT PAVILION IN KENSINGTON GARDENS.



FRENCH TROOPS IN A RAINSTORM IN ALGERIA.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—No. 339.

THANKS TO THE ABYSSINIAN CONQUERORS.

THE event deserving most to be chronicled is the ceremonial of passing a vote of thanks to Sir Robert Napier and his army, which was performed on Thursday night, last week. It was advertised in the notice paper to come off at a quarter past four. Public business usually begins at 4.30; but time is precious now, and we begin public business a quarter of an hour earlier; and so, at a quarter to four, the audience assembled, and Mr. Disraeli rose. The House was, "without overflowing, full." It will not again, this Session, be full to overflowing, for many of the members are already gone, no more to return, except by the grace of their constituents. Under the gallery there were many military notables, if we did but know them. There was a General Le Marchant, brother of Sir Denis Le Marchant, our Chief Clerk; General Eyre (not ex-Governor Eyre, as some supposed, but an Indian General), and several other military chiefs. The bronze-faced gentleman who sat in front was he who brought the despatches over—name unknown to us, or forgotten.

MR. DISRAELI'S SPEECH.

Mr. Disraeli spoke all through in his most solemn, slow, and measured tone—with a cadence at the end of every sentence. He always adopts this style when he has to make a set and studied speech, on an occasion like this. His manner was grave and formal; his style was close, terse, and epigrammatic. This speech had obviously been studied; there were marks of the file in every sentence of it—file, though, worked by a master; for the speech was a masterpiece of art of its kind—a speech that nobody in the world but the great Caucasian could have delivered. It was an admirably clear, distinct, historic statement of the achievements of the great soldier, coloured by the speaker's Asian imagination. Some of his epigrammatic sentences were very picturesque. Thus, he told us that Sir Robert "had led the elephants of Asia, bearing the artillery of Europe, over African passes which might have startled the trapper and appalled the hunter of the Alps." The *Spectator* newspaper objects "that trappers catch beavers, and beavers live in water, and trappers are consequently not good authorities about mountains." Trapper, though, is a general term. It means one who entraps wild animals, whether on mountains, on plains, or in water; and in this sense the orator used the word. There was another sentence which almost verged on the ridiculous. That in which the speaker told the House that Sir Robert "had planted the standard of St. George on the mountains of Rasselas." The House laughed at this, and the Prime Minister himself smiled. Perhaps he thought that this was rather whimsical and far-fetched, and meant it to be so. The laughter was, though, very faint, and not general. It came, probably, from the old men only; for the young generation know little of Dr. Johnson's famous story. It was a classic in our young days, to be found in every bookseller's shop; but you might now go a day's march and not find it. Indeed, a young swell at the bar, when he heard Disraeli talk of the "Mountains of Rasselas," said, or is reported to have said, "Mountains of Rasselas! Where are they?" He had never seen them, you see, mentioned in the despatches. On the whole, Disraeli's speech was a great success—clear, concise, picturesque, and effective.

GLADSTONE'S SPEECH.

And Gladstone's was a good speech—a very good speech. But what a contrast it was to that which we had just heard! There was as much difference between these two speeches as there is between the two men, and that is a difference *to the bone*, of the distance of the whole heavens. Disraeli could not deliver such a speech as Gladstone's; Gladstone could not deliver such a speech as Disraeli's. In short, the one was Disraelian, the other Gladstonian. The Prime Minister's was compact, laboured—we do not mean in a bad sense—and epigrammatic. Gladstone's was eloquent, flowing, and, as to the language, evidently impromptu. We do not believe that Gladstone ever studies beforehand the language of his speeches. He has no need to do this. He gets up his facts carefully, no man more so; and, no doubt, he mentally maps out beforehand his lines of argument. But that is enough. He has such an affluence of language always at his command wherewith to clothe his thoughts that he has no occasion to study and arrange; his thoughts seem naturally to clothe themselves. One of the special features of his speech was the graceful acknowledgment of the merit due to the Government for the successful management of this war. This is characteristic of Gladstone. He is a stern fighter when there is fighting to be done; but in the fiercest struggle he always fights fair. Would that all his opponents did the same! And when the battle is over, he is always graceful and generous to his foes. Loud cheers from all parts of the House greeted his generous acknowledgment of the services of her Majesty's Ministers. High-minded generosity always, here as elsewhere, excites applause. But we have more than once seen the rules of courtesy, which ought to govern our proceedings, sadly violated. Who can ever forget how Stansfeld was hounded out of Palmerston's Government by the Conservative party, Disraeli leading on the pack? and with what malevolence, prying into private affairs and misconstruing motives, have Bright and Gladstone been pursued! Nor was the virtuous and pure-minded Cobden spared. We ourselves heard a Conservative member charge this great and good man with "going round with the hat" at the moment when he refused a further gift of money. But enough of this. Let us hope that the example of Gladstone, so loudly applauded, will be perseveringly followed.

PRECEDENT.

It is known that her Majesty's Government wished that Sir Robert Napier should be present at this ceremonial and receive the thanks of the House from the lips of the Speaker. Why, then, was he not present? He was in London, and if he had been summoned he would have come. In that case, he would have been ushered in, doubtless, by the Serjeant-at-Arms, and taken his seat in a chair provided for him at the bar. Why, then, was he not summoned? The answer is, there is no precedent to justify such a proceeding. As soon as Mr. Speaker was made acquainted with the wish of the Government, he ordered the clerks in the Journal Office to search the journals for a precedent, and this they did; but none could be found. Members have often received the thanks of the House in person—Sir De Lacy Evans, for example, after the Crimean War; but this was obviously no precedent. The gallant General was a member; Sir Robert Napier is a stranger. The Duke of Wellington, too, it was discovered, received the thanks of the House in person; and at first it seemed as if this must be a precedent in point; but no! it would not do. The Duke was a peer of the realm and a legislator. Sir Robert is not, and so it had to be ruled that this precedent was not complete—would not run on all fours, as we say. In short, no instance of a stranger receiving the thanks of the House in person could be found, and therefore Sir Robert could not be invited, for Parliamentary practice is governed rigidly either by rule or tradition. Whatsoever has been enacted or has been done, can be done; whatsoever has not been enacted or has not been done, cannot be done. How curious this is when we reflect upon it—this rigid and inflexible adherence to precedent! All precedents were once made, and one would have thought that on such an occasion as this the House might have cut the knot of red tape and made another precedent. What harm could ever come of it? Of course, if, after due motion had been made, the House had resolved that Sir Robert should be summoned, the thing could have been done; for the House makes its own rules and can alter them, and the House can also establish precedents; and one wonders why such a motion was not made. However, it was not made; and, failing that, after much searching and wig-shaking, it was settled that Sir Robert could not be summoned to the bar.

INNERMOST LIFE.

Ever since the Conservatives obtained office we have found it

very difficult to discover the real inner life—or, say, the innermost life—of the House of Commons. It has lain so deep and has been so cautiously concealed. Often that which at first we took to be the inner life we afterwards discovered was not the real inner life. For example, on that Thursday night, subsequent to the ceremonial of which we have spoken, the Registration Bill came before the House—a bill, you know, readers, to provide for you the luxury of a general election in the cold, dark, wet, short days of November. The motion was that Mr. Speaker do leave the chair, that the bill might be considered in Committee; and, to an inexperienced eye, all looked fair and square. There was the Prime Minister in his seat, staring, as his wont is, at the floor; flanked on his right by the Home Secretary, looking happy, as he always does; and on the left by solid, ponderous Mr. Hunt, Chancellor of the Exchequer, calm, self-possessed as he always is; and the Foreign Secretary, Lord Stanley, was also in his seat, impassive and cold, as usual; with Sir John Pakington, War Secretary, looking nothing particular; and other Ministers, whom we need not mention by name. The Conservative rank and file, too, were present in strong muster. On the other side we had the opposing force in strength, led by its well-known chiefs. In short, the House looked as we have seen it hundreds of times. It was, apparently, going to discuss this bill in a business-like manner. There is to be no fighting, surely! a little skirmishing perhaps—nothing more; for it is a Government bill, you know, and supported by the Opposition. This is how matters seemed to be; but, in truth, they were not exactly what they appeared. In fact, in some respects, they were the very opposite. Thus you would, as you look upon the scene, think that the Government are anxious to pass this bill, and that they have whipped this strong muster of their followers to get it through. This is how it would strike a stranger; but it is not so. The Government, to a man, hate this bill, and all their supporters hate it too, and would try to defeat it if they dared. Further, Conservative agents and Government subalterns have been for several days past fluttering about the lobby, canvassing members to oppose this bill; and at the Carlton and other Tory clubs there has been no little agitation and exertion made to get rid of it. In short, there has been a widespread conspiracy at work. Some of the members of the Government have taken part in this conspiracy, and it has been whispered about that the Prime Minister was really the chief conspirator. But our readers may ask—If the Government dislike this bill, why did they introduce it? Or, being introduced, why do they not withdraw it? Well, the Government introduced it because they could not help it. If they had not introduced it, there would probably have been a vote of want of confidence proposed. "If you do not secure an early meeting of the new Parliament—a meeting before Christmas—that the new House may settle the question which party is to govern the country, we will oust you now. Choose ye!" Such was the challenge of the Liberal party, more or less plainly expressed. Disraeli chose the first-named alternative, and promised the bill. The answer to the question why it is not withdrawn, is twofold. First, it is doubtful whether the House would let him withdraw it; for, once down as an order of the day, a bill is the property of the House, and not of the promoter. Secondly, it was in the mind, so men say, of Disraeli to withdraw, or attempt to defeat, this bill, and some of his colleagues sympathised with him; but others—notably, Mr. Home-Secretary Hardy and Mr. Chancellor-of-the-Exchequer Hunt—steadily and sturdily insisted that the bill should be carried. "We are pledged, and as gentlemen we must redeem our pledges." Such, in substance, men say, was the answer of these two Ministers when they were craftily sounded upon this matter. We are gentlemen! Did they emphasise the *we*? But, nevertheless, many of the Conservatives, though, intended to oppose this bill. But when the time came they discovered it would not do. A great many of their party—a majority, let us hope—looked coldly upon the proposal; they also said mentally, if not audibly, "We are gentlemen. Beside, there was such a formidable force in front that it was seen at a glance that fighting would be hopeless. And so the conspiracy, which in the mist looked so formidable, collapsed, exploded at the touchstone.

We seldom go to the House of Lords, and very rarely allude to the proceedings there; but, as a complement to what we have said above, we notice that signs of the conspiracy showed themselves in the Upper House. When the Boundary Bill came before the House, Lord Beauchamp moved an amendment. Do our readers remember a certain Hon. Frederick Lygon, a pert, talkative gentleman, who used to buzz about Gladstone's ears in the small hours, like a bluebottle fly? Well, he is now Earl Beauchamp. To appearance, Lord Beauchamp proposed this amendment of his own motion; but here fact was opposed to appearance. The noble Lord was put up by the Government, and the Government—albeit they had accepted the bill and bound themselves to support it—did nevertheless support Earl Beauchamp. Their object was delay. If they could have carried the amendment, the bill must have come down to the Commons. There would have been much talk about it. It would then have been sent back to the Lords with Lords' amendment struck out, and thereupon we should have had a conference between the two Houses. Of course, in the end, the Lower House would have triumphed. But, meanwhile, time would have been travelling on, the Registration Bill delayed, and perhaps, as the shallow conspirators thought, withdrawn on the plea of want of time. Shallow, foolish conspirators! What they dreamed might happen would not have happened. If the bill had come down thus mutilated or amended, the Liberal party would have buckled on its armour for a fight. As a proof of the determination of the Liberal leaders to carry this Registration Bill, take this little incident. Mr. Childers got postponed Book 2 of the Civil Service Estimates; and, whilst I am writing, said Book 2 is not passed. He did this that the Liberal party, if any conspiracy against the Registration Bill should be discovered, might stop or retard the supplies. Conspiracy was discovered; in the Commons it collapsed, and in the Lords it was stamped out by Lord Russell and his followers, and now there will be no need to stop or retard the supplies. There, readers, we fancy that we have given you, this week, a peep into the innermost life of Parliament!

LABOUR AND CAPITAL.—A meeting of the Social Science Association was held last Saturday, at which a committee was appointed "to spread information on the natural laws which regulate wages and to aid in the removal of the barriers now often existing between employers and workmen." Mr. Gladstone, who presided, pointed out that in approaching the working classes on these questions they should be recognised in the character of men qualified and entitled to form a judgment upon the measures proposed for their good. The more largely this recognition was made, the greater would be the progress in bringing about an agreement on those points in which conciliation was required. Resolutions were adopted approving of combinations for legitimate purposes; of the principle of courts of conciliation as existing in Nottingham, and recommending the general adoption of partnerships of industry.

DUTY ON FIRE INSURANCES.—Referring to the Parliamentary return of fire insurance duty for 1867, just published, it appears that the increase of duty from year to year has been less last year than in either of the three preceding years. The proportion in which the total increase is effected is divided among the various companies as follows:—Increases in 1867 over 1866—Royal, £2671; Phoenix, £2593; Sun, £2229; Law, £1851; County, £1778; Liverpool and London and Globe, £1499; Norwich Union, £1286; Guardian, £1286; Scottish Imperial, £1182; Scottish Commercial, £1113; Caledonian, £950; Westminster, £763; North British and Mercantile, £727; Queen, £724; Law Union, £707; Union, £658; Etna, European, and British Nation Amalgamated, £616; London, £582; General, £570; Provincial, £557; Yorkshire, £525; Scottish, £520; Northern and Home and Colonial Amalgamated, £494; Alliance, £489; Scottish National, £417; Scottish Provincial, £364; London and Southwark, £346; Hand-in-Hand, £342; Kent, £334; Lancashire and Birmingham Amalgamated, £235; Atlas, £220; Essex and Suffolk, £186; National of Ireland, £169; Royal Farmers, £142; Scottish Union, £134; Salop, £74; Shropshire and North Wales, £66; Patriotic, £50; Hercules, £49; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, £40; Netherlands, £36; Church of England, £31; Manchester, £25; Preserver, £24; Oldham, £2. Decreases—Western and Albert Amalgamated, £1086; Commercial Union, £897; Royal Exchange, £793; West of England, £633; Empire and City and County and Friend-in-Need Amalgamated, £620; Imperial, £515; London and Lancashire, £410; Birmingham Alliance, £34; Norwich Equitable, £32; Emperor, £27; Midland Counties, £9.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

"A ROW IN THE HOUSE."

The Earl of MALMESBURY, adverting to the scene which took place on the previous evening, when Lord Russell, Lord Granville, and the other chiefs of the Liberal party, after charging Ministers with a breach of faith in reference to the Boundary Bill, took up their hats and walked out of the house in a body, wished to explain the intentions of the Government with respect to the business before their Lordships. Lord Malmesbury expressed his astonishment at the manner in which the Opposition had withdrawn from the house, which he described as equally disrespectful to their Lordships, and wanting in personal dignity. Such a scene had never occurred within his memory, and it was one entirely without excuse. If noble Lords had believed that the Government were wilfully deceiving the House, they ought to have taken a very different course. Ministers had been taunted with the desire of clinging to office; but so anxious were they to put an end to the present unsatisfactory state of things that they had made arrangements for the meeting of the new Parliament in December. But to effect this the Scotch Reform Bill and the Boundary Bill must be passed in time to receive the Royal assent on the 13th inst., so that all claims to be placed on the register of electors might be sent in before the 20th.

Earl RUSSELL defended the conduct of himself and his friends, which he held was justified by the unusual course pursued by the Government, who might, had they chosen, have proposed an adjournment in order that the statement of the First Minister as to the sense in which he accepted the amendments made by the Commons in the Boundary Bill might be explained.

The Duke of MONTROSE, who had given notice of an amendment with respect to the boundaries of Glasgow, remarked that he would never have put it on the paper if he had thought it could be regarded in the light of a dodge or breach of faith.

The Marquis of SALISBURY recommended that, for the dignity of the House itself, the matter should now be allowed to rest.

The LORD CHANCELLOR expressed a hope that some retraction of the charge against the Government would first be made.

Earl GRANVILLE replied that he was not conscious of having acted offensively to the House. The course adopted by his noble friends and himself was no doubt very unusual, but its justification was to be found in the fact that it had been most successful.

The Duke of ARGYLL having observed that from the first he had suspected that the Government intended to move amendments, which he had determined to protest against as a breach of faith.

The Earl of DERBY declared that throughout a long experience he had never listened to a debate with so much regret, or to one that had been conducted with such an unnecessary display of warmth. Although the statement of the Prime Minister respecting the Boundary Bill was open to some doubt, it was just as reasonable to conclude that he had committed their Lordships to the Irish Church Suspensory Bill because Ministers had permitted it to go through its later stages in the Commons without opposition. After the explanation of the Government he thought noble Lords were bound to express their regret at what had occurred, instead of continuing the ungenerous and unworthy course of imputing motives.

After a few words from the Earl of HARROWBY, the subject dropped. CHURCH RATES.

On Earl RUSSELL moving that the House should go into Committee on the Compulsory Church Rates Abolition Bill, a short debate took place, and ultimately the bill passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FOREIGN CATTLE MARKET BILL.

At the morning sitting the adjourned debate on the amendment of Mr. Gibson to the order for going into Committee on the Metropolitan Foreign Cattle Market Bill was resumed by Mr. CORRIJN, who supported the measure as correcting to some extent the injustice inflicted upon the English agriculturist by the operation of free imports.

Mr. GLADSTONE condemned the observations of the hon. member for East Suffolk as an attempt to revive the embers of past animosities, and argued that the effect of free trade had been to provide an abundance of food for the people and increase the profits of the farmers. He objected to the bill, because it would have the effect of increasing the price of meat to the consumers and adding to the burdens now borne by the ratepayers of the metropolis.

Mr. HENLEY believed it was chiefly owing to the inaction of the Privy Council that the cattle plague recently spread throughout the country, and the adoption of the bill would greatly contribute to the prevention of disease through bringing together foreign and native cattle.

Mr. LOWE considered that the precaution of slaughtering imported stock at the seaside, as proposed by the bill, was the only efficient means of keeping the cattle plague out of the country.

Mr. GOSCHEN contended that the system of inspection now enforced was a sufficient guard against the introduction of disease, and that the sole object of the bill was to benefit the agricultural classes by imposing restrictions on the movement of foreign cattle.

After some observations by Mr. C. S. Read and Mr. Headlam Mr. Moffatt moved the adjournment of the debate, in which he was supported by Mr. Ayrton, who complained that, although two morning sittings had been held specially for the consideration of the bill, no member of the Cabinet had yet spoken on the subject. A division having been taken, the motion for adjourning the debate was negatived by 224 to 79. A short speech from Mr. Logan, a member of the Select Committee on the bill, was followed by some observations from Mr. Cheetham, when, the time having arrived for suspending disputed business, the debate was again adjourned.

THE REGISTRATION BILL.

The Registration Bill, as amended, was considered and the amendments agreed to.

THE EVENING SITTING.

Mr. DISRAELI promised to consider the claims of the troops employed in the New Zealand wars to a military decoration in recognition of their services.

Among the topics discussed on going into Committee of Supply were the case of Mr. Pigott, convicted of a seditious libel, and the recent report of the Commissioners on Scotch burgh schools.

The Civil Service votes having all been passed, there was some skirmishing in regard to the issue of a writ for Bristol, which was moved by Mr. Neville-Grenville and resisted by Mr. Howe (chairman of the Election Committee). Mr. Berkeley (who declared that in the present state of excitement at Bristol an election would be productive of much mischief), and others. In the end the motion was withdrawn.

MONDAY, JULY 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

NOVA SCOTIA AND CANADA.

Lord STRATHEDEN brought forward the case of the Nova Scotian petitioners, and pointed out that their object was not to dissolve the confederation, but to obtain a Royal Commission to inquire into the circumstances under which the Act of Union had been procured.

The Duke of BUCKINGHAM asked that the matter might be left in the hands of the Government.

Lord CARNARVON defended the confederation on the ground that it ought to have fair play, and that the proposed inquiry, if granted, would inevitably break up the union.

Lord NORMANBY spoke in the same sense.

Lord LYVEDEN, as an advocate of confederation, thought that the present state of things was the result of the precipitancy with which the Imperial measure had been passed, and supported the proposal to appoint a commission.

Lords Lyttelton, Airlie, and Russell opposed the motion, the latter being of opinion that the proper course was for her Majesty's Secretary of State to make a careful inquiry into the grievances of the colonists. The motion was then withdrawn.

THE BOUNDARY BILL.

The Boundary Bill having passed through Committee, Lord RAVENSWORTH proposed an amendment on the report, reinstating the recommendation of the Boundary Commissioners that the township of Jarrold should be included in the borough of South Shields.

Some conversation ensued, in the course of which the Earl of MALMESBURY expressed a hope that the amendment would not be pressed; but a division was taken, which resulted in the rejection of the amendment by 27 to 9.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

On the report of amendments to the Scotch Reform Bill, Lord REDESDALE gave notice that on the next and final stage he should propose an extension of the boundaries of the city of Glasgow.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REGISTRATION BILL.

The Registration Bill was read the third time and passed.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

In Committee on the Corrupt Practices Bill, Mr. BOUVIER moved the rejection of clause 5, which transfers to Judges appointed in connection with the Court of Common Pleas the powers hitherto exercised by the House of Commons. He looked with alarm upon the proposal to deprive the House of its jurisdiction in the case of election petitions and to impart it to a single irresponsible Judge. Mr. Bouvier was also averse to a system of local inquiry.

Mr. MILL was strongly favourable to legislation which would make the detection and punishment of bribery effectual, and suggested that the

Government should consent to limit the operation of the Act to two years, in order to give it a fair trial.

This proposition was supported by Mr. GLADSTONE, and was not unfavourably entertained by Mr. DISRAELI, who, however, said that the matter required serious consideration.

Ultimately the House divided on the clause, and it was agreed to by a majority of 77.

Later in the evening there was a rather animated conversation upon the question whether the Judges to try election petitions should be specially appointed for the purpose, or whether all the Judges should be liable to perform that duty. An amendment was moved by Mr. Ayrton, in order to bring the point fairly under the consideration of the Committee. There was a nearly unanimous expression of opinion against the appointment of special election Judges; but Mr. Disraeli was not prepared to risk the fate of the bill in the House of Lords by casting the duty upon all the Judges, and recommended the Committee to agree to the clause as it stood. However, upon a division, the amendment was carried by a majority of 65-136 to 71. At the instance of the Prime Minister, the Chairman reported progress.

TUESDAY, JULY 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CHURCH IN JAMAICA.

The Duke of BUCKINGHAM moved the second reading of the West Indies Bill, the object of which is to repeal a grant made before the abolition of negro slavery for the purpose of increasing the influence and efficiency of the Church amongst the slave population and promoting their religious and social education. The grant was proposed by Mr. Canning and was intended to be permanent; but, in consequence of the passing of the measure of emancipation and the ability of the negroes to take the charge upon themselves, there was no longer any reason for continuing such an exceptional endowment.

The Earl of CARNARVON availed himself of the occasion to offer a defence of his consistency, in answer to the reflections passed upon him during the recent debates on the Irish Church Bill. The abolition of the Established Church in Ireland was justified, he said, by the argument upon which the withdrawal of the grant to the Church in the West Indies rested. In short, the circumstances of the Church in the West Indies and in Ireland were exactly parallel; and if any party were chargeable with inconsistency, it was her Majesty's Ministers, who, whilst disavowing the Church in the West Indies, resisted its disestablishment in Ireland.

The LORD CHANCELLOR denied that a grant made on account of the distressed state of a colony was to be regarded as a permanent endowment, and, retracting nothing of what he had said in previous debates, was content to leave the public to decide between him and the noble Earl.

After some further discussion, the bill was read the second time.

THE IRISH REFORM BILL.

Their Lordships next went into Committee on the Irish Reform Bill, which

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE described as a perfect mockery of Reform. What was wanted in Ireland, he argued, was a redistribution of seats, whilst the bill was simply a scheme for the enfranchisement of a small and that the most doubtful, class of people in the country.

The Earl of LONGFORD explained that the bill originally contained a moderate though beneficial scheme of redistribution, and that it was only abandoned in consequence of the risk of losing the bill altogether this Session.

Earl RUSSELL accepted the measure for the present, with the hope that a few years hence a better scheme of redistribution would be practicable. A few words from the Earl of RANDON brought the discussion to a close, and the bill was passed through Committee.

BOUNDARY BILL, ETC.

Subsequently the Registration Bill was read the second time; and the Army Chaplains Bill, the Vagrant Act Amendment Bill, and the Boundary Bill were read the third time and passed.

SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

On the motion for the third reading of the Scotch Reform Bill, Lord REDESDALE moved an amendment for enlarging the boundaries of Glasgow in accordance with the recommendation of the Boundary Commissioners; but, on a division, the proposal was rejected by 53 to 13, and the bill was read the third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS BILL.

The Public Schools Bill was further considered in Committee. An amendment moved by Mr. NEWDEGATE to the effect that no statute or scheme proposing the repeal or alteration of any Act of Parliament should come into operation until it had first been submitted to Parliament in a bill introduced by the Government within two months after the commencement of the succeeding Session of Parliament, and the enactment of such bill, was negatived; and a new clause, proposed by Mr. Lowe, that the boys educated at Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Westminster, Winchester, Charterhouse, and Shrewsbury, should be examined once a year by a Government inspector in reading, writing from dictation, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, and history, the results of such examination and the inspector's report to be laid before Parliament, after some discussion, was withdrawn. A motion by Mr. Ayrton that in all statutes created under the bill provision should be made for the education of any boy as a day scholar who might be residing within three miles of the school with a parent, or relative within the fourth degree of relationship, consanguinity, or affinity, or with his guardian, and who might be proved by a preliminary examination to be in other respects fit, to be educated at such school—on condition, however, that he should be required to pay a reasonable sum for his education, not exceeding that of boarders, led to a discussion and a division, and the clause was negatived by 96 to 40. The bill was then passed through Committee.

THE FOREIGN CATTLE MARKET BILL.

Colonel BARTHELOTT called upon the Prime Minister to give him an assurance that it was intended by the Government to proceed with the Foreign Cattle Market Bill so that some definite issue might be arrived at respecting it during the present Session.

Mr. DISRAELI said that Ministers had done all in their power, in the face of great difficulties, to promote the bill; and if he declined then to fix an evening sitting for its discussion, it was only because the state of public business rendered it impossible to do so. Still, it was the sincere determination of the Government to advance the measure as far as they could, and with that object to take every opportunity that presented itself, and, if possible, to fix it for an evening sitting.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MINES ASSESSMENT BILL.

The Mines Assessment Bill of Mr. Percy Wyndham was recommitted, and further discussed at considerable length. An amendment proposed by Mr. Ayrton, to the effect that on and after Oct. 1 next all mines not now liable should be subject to assessment, was accepted by Mr. Wyndham; but a division was taken in obedience to the demand of a small minority. It resulted, however, in the affirmation of the amendment by 119 to 6. This step rendering unnecessary several clauses in the bill, they were subsequently struck out, and the measure passed through Committee.

PROMISSORY OATHS BILL.

The House having gone into Committee on the Promissory Oaths Bill, Mr. NEWDEGATE moved as an amendment to the second clause that the oath contained in the Act of 1866, cap. 19, should be substituted for the form of oath proposed in the bill.

Mr. Secretary HARDY recommended the Committee to adhere to the clause as it stood, the terms of the oath having been approved by a Royal Commission and by a Select Committee of the House of Lords. After some discussion, the motion of Mr. Newdegate was negatived without a division.

Mr. BOUVIER next proposed to amend the eighth clause by moving to omit certain words introduced in the House of Lords for the purpose of meeting the case of clergymen. The motion was opposed by Mr. HARDY, and on a division was rejected by 79 to 51. Thereupon the bill went through Committee and was ordered to be reported to the House.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL.

In Committee on the Government of India Act Amendment Bill, Mr. OTWAY moved to reduce the salaries proposed for the new members of Council from £1500 to £1200 a year. The motion was resisted by Sir S. NORTHGOTE; and, on the Committee dividing, was negatived by 73 to 26.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Ecclesiastical Buildings and Glebes (Scotland) Bill and the Court of Justiciary (Scotland) Bill were read the third time and passed; and the Lords' amendments to the Boundary Bill were agreed to.

THURSDAY, JULY 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Earl of MALMESBURY moved, and Earl RUSSELL seconded, an address to her Majesty congratulating her on the birth of a Royal Princess, and assuring her Majesty of the sympathy of their Lordships in all that concerns the domestic happiness of the Royal family. Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, by the manner in which she had performed the duties connected with her high station, had gained the affections of all the people of this country.

SIR ROBERT NAPIER.

The Earl of MALMESBURY rose and said: "My Lords, a message from her Majesty the Queen."

The LORD CHANCELLOR read the message, which announced that, in consideration of the brilliant services rendered by Sir R. Napier, her Majesty desired the co-operation of the House in making such provision

for the gallant General as she deemed meet—viz., the settlement upon him of a pension of £2000 per annum, to be continued to his immediate heir.

The Earl of Malmesbury said that the gracious message would be taken into consideration next evening.

UNIFORMITY OF PUBLIC WORSHIP BILL.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY moved the second reading of this bill, urging the importance of passing it without delay.

After a lengthened discussion, the Earl of DERBY moved "that the question be not put," which was carried without a division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE VOLUNTEERS AT WINDSOR.

Lord ELCHO asked whether any inquiry had been instituted into the rumoured insubordination after the volunteer review at Windsor.

Sir J. PAKINGTON replied that he had had an interview with General Lindsay, and the result was that a court of inquiry would be held on the conduct of one regiment, of which the commanding officer had been called upon for an explanation. With respect to the other corps, it had been found necessary to write to the Lord Lieutenants of the county. Until the matter had proceeded further, it was impossible to say what steps the Government would take.

BIRTH OF A PRINCESS.

Mr. DISRAELI moved an address of congratulation to her Majesty on the birth of a Princess, and, Mr. Gladstone having seconded the motion, it was agreed to.

SIR R. NAPIER.

Mr. DISRAELI then handed to the Speaker a message from the Queen in reference to a pension to Sir R. Napier, and intimated that the message would be taken into consideration next day.

THE CORRUPT PRACTICES BILL.

Mr. DISRAELI rose to state the intention of the Government with regard to this bill. He said that decision restored the original proposal of the Government, which the House, in deference to the protest of the Judges, had given up. It was true that the Government had resisted this decision, but they had only done so from a fear that it would risk the passage of the measure this Session, which all must feel would be a most unfortunate occurrence. The Committee had recorded its decision most unequivocally, and the Government would not affect to regret it. He would now briefly state the course which the Government, after great deliberation, would suggest. They proposed that at the commencement of every Michaelmas Term each of the superior courts should form a rota; and that one Judge of each court should be selected from it to take cognisance of election petitions, and other matters relating thereto under this Act. The Judge selected would receive an additional £500 for this service, but it was not to reckon towards his pension. The chiefs of the three superior courts would be exempted from this duty; and considering the great increase of business which was now entailed upon the superior courts, a new Judge would be added to each Court, but this additional Judge would be required to assist in the Divorce and other courts in which there might be a pressure of business. Power would be given, if the three Judges were not sufficient to transact the election business, especially after a general election, to appoint a Puisne Judge from the Court of Exchequer to assist them, on a requisition being made by the three Judges to the Secretary of State. The clauses to carry out this proposal would be laid on the table to-night, and he proposed to take them into consideration at a morning sitting to-morrow.

After a short conversation, this course was agreed to.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

On the consideration of the Lords' amendments to the Representation of the People (Scotland) Bill, Mr. McLAREN moved an amendment to the Lords' amendment, in order that certain voters in Edinburgh and other places should be retained on the valuation roll for this year. This amendment was opposed by the Government, but carried by a majority of 124 to 104.

The other Lords' amendments were agreed to, and a Committee was, as usual, appointed to confer with the other House.

ARMY ESTIMATES.

The House ultimately went into Committee of Supply upon the remaining Army Estimates.

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SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1868.

ABYSSINIAN AND OTHER LIONS.

THE Crystal Palace is fast becoming a sort of Walhalla—or, at least, a Mdme. Tussaud's exhibition—for the living. No eminent or remarkable man is allowed to come to this country, whether as a stranger, or as a returned native, without being taken to the Crystal Palace, and made the pretext for a fête. We shall never forget (nor ought the directors) the lucrative visit of the Viceroy of Egypt, closely followed, as it was, by the still more lucrative visit of the Sultan. Our native Princes and heroes are not expected to contribute anything to the funds of the establishment; but they bring money to it in an indirect way by appearing for nothing in character and in costume. The Crystal Palace is really becoming a national institution; and if the public choose to accept it in that light, no one, from the directors downwards, has a right to complain.

Last week the Duke of Edinburgh was taken down to Sydenham to be congratulated on his escape from assassination. This week Sir Robert Napier has been made the hero of a Crystal Palace holiday; and we can foresee the day when the young Abyssinian Prince, "I Have Seen the World," will be singled out by Mr. Bowley and Mr. Grove as the object of special honours. It is, after all, a good thing that we should have a place where national and quasi-national demonstrations can be organised on a befitting scale. The public feeling must find vent somewhere; and it is now beginning to be understood that popular sentiment, on no matter what subject, can always be let off, on certain terms, at the Crystal Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh is a peculiarly interesting personage just now—not merely in a passive, but also in an active point of view. It is to his good fortune, not to his merit, that his having escaped assassination must be attributed. But he appears to have behaved well under the attack; and the Australian newspapers are now telling us that, a dead set having been made against Mr. Aspinall, the counsel who defended the assassin (and who for that reason seems to have been regarded as an accomplice), the Prince invited Mr. Aspinall to visit him more than once on board the Galatea, and thus effectually silenced the ill-educated, unreasoning persons who could not see the difference between legal advocacy and moral justification.

Moreover, while congratulating the Prince on his recent escape from assassination, we may also compliment him on his coming appearance as an author. Nothing is so fashionable in the present day as to write a book. The Emperor of the French, not to speak of the numerous literary productions of his youth, has published, or rather is still publishing, a "Life of Cæsar." The unfortunate Emperor Maximilian left several volumes of memoirs. The Crown Prince of Prussia has given to the world an account of the campaign against Austria, in which he played so distinguished a part. The Prince de Joinville and the Duke d'Aumale have both contributed long and important articles to the *Révue des Deux Mondes*. The late Prince Albert, an author as well as a composer, treated a variety of literary subjects; and her Majesty the Queen has produced a book which has been read wherever the English language is spoken. The Duke of Edinburgh is now about to swell the list of Royal authors; and the account of his voyages, his visits, excursions, and hunting expeditions on shore will, it is said, be illustrated by drawings from his own hand. Three cheers, then, for the Duke of Edinburgh, not merely because he is alive and well, but because he has seen service, is leading an active life, and bids fair to distinguish himself in more than one department of human energy.

Of Sir Robert Napier, though he is the lion of the day, we have little to say that has not been said again and again in these columns. This is not the time for considering the whole Abyssinian question over again. The original difficulty might, no doubt, have been avoided. But Lord Russell will be Lord Russell; and once being in the quarrel, we were obliged to follow the advice of old Polonius, and "bear it that the offenders might beware of us." Fortune does sometimes favour the brave; and of this we had a striking instance in the Abyssinian expedition. Hostile critics of that expedition (and what work is there, however admirable, which cannot be criticised from a hostile point of view?) say that if the enemy had harassed Sir Robert during his advance he would not have got to Magdala so soon nor so easily as he did; that Theodore, if his troops had fought better, would not have been so speedily vanquished; that if Theodore, instead of remaining in Magdala, had fled, it would have been difficult to pursue him; and, finally, that if the expedition had not returned just when it did it would have been cut off by the rains, which were already beginning to fill the torrent beds at the foot of the mountains. The answer to all this is that if no enemy attacked Sir Robert Napier until he reached Magdala, that was because the army presented too formidable a front for any such step to be taken with prudence; that if Theodore's troops did not fight like well-armed Europeans, that was not the fault of Sir Robert Napier, who, however, was quite prepared for an enemy much more powerful; that, although it would doubtless have been very awkward for the English expedition if Theodore had taken to flight, yet it was perfectly well known to the political agents that such flight, by reason of the hostility of the surrounding tribes, was impossible; while, as regards the possibility of the army's being delayed by the rains, Sir Robert knew that possibility better than anyone, had provided for the danger, should it be inevitable; and, finally, as good fortune following on good management would have it, succeeded in escaping it.

Sir Robert Napier is a hero whom the Crystal Palace directors may well delight to honour; and though the youthful "I Have Seen the World" will, no doubt, "draw," if properly advertised, it will be long before a man of such distinction and true worth as the chief of the Abyssinian expedition will be found to figure as a star at the great Sydenham show.

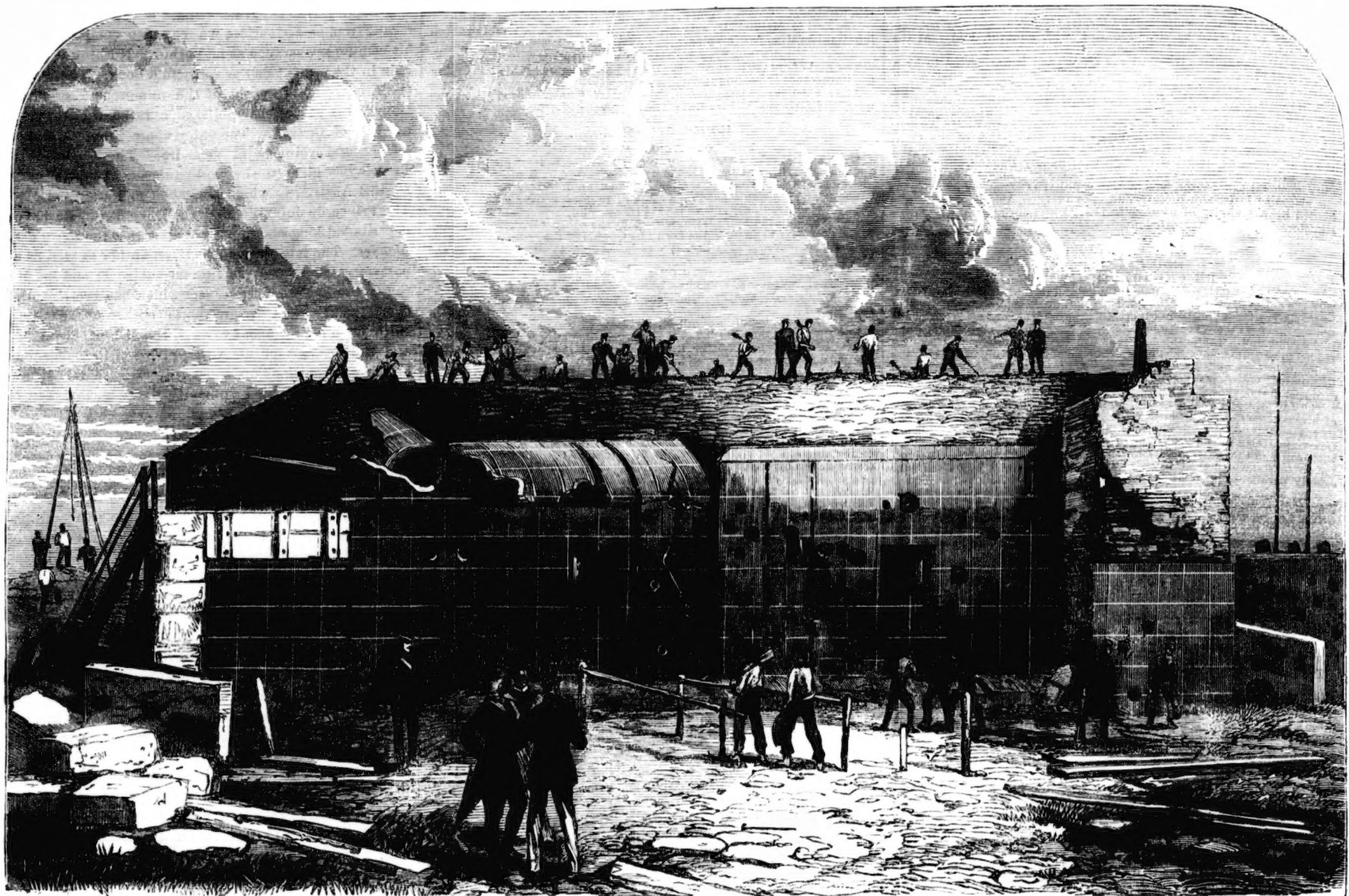
THE BARNSELY VIADUCT.

THE communication which for many years has existed betwixt the Midland Railway and the town of Barnsley by means of an omnibus running the distance of three miles a certain number of times daily will shortly cease, giving place to another affording far greater facilities, in the branch line from Cudworth to Barnsley, now rapidly approaching completion. Our illustration shows the viaduct which, during the last four years, has been in course of construction across the valley of the Dearne, and which is probably one of the most important works of the kind in the kingdom. At one extremity it crosses the Wakefield and Barnsley Canal, and at the other the South Yorkshire and River Don Navigation, the river Dearne running under it about midway. Its extreme length is 900 ft.; and its height from the river Dearne (about the centre), 97 ft.

Immediately after leaving the viaduct, the line passes within 200 yards of the Oaks Colliery, so painfully known through the explosion of 1866; and, running for some distance parallel with the South Yorkshire Railway, enters the town on an extended series of arches. It is intended to connect the line with the South Yorkshire Railway, and thus enter the town prior to the completion of the extensive works yet required in the town itself.

PENSIVE THOUGHT.—In his speech on the vote of thanks, the Premier said, "Happy is the man who has been thrice thanked by his country." Well, the country has twice thanked Mr. Disraeli, and it was on his two resignations.—He may be happy yet.—Punch.

REORGANISATION OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary for War has just laid before the House of Commons the close of a correspondence between the Treasury and the War Office on the formation of an Army control department. It was commenced by Sir John Pakington on Dec. 19 last, when the right hon. Baronet communicated his opinion to the Treasury "that economy and efficiency, in peace and war, might be promoted by combining, under one controller-in-chief, what are called the departments of supply—viz., transport, commissariat, stores, purveyors, and barracks." After a series of negotiations, extending over several months, the Treasury issued a minute stating that there will be "prospectively," in addition to the secretary and Parliamentary under secretary, a permanent under secretary, competent to advise the Minister for War on military matters, and he will be "generally, if not always, a military man;" a controller-in-chief, "without the rank of under secretary," and with a salary of £1500 a year—he will be either a military man or a civilian, as may be most convenient at the time of his appointment; a principal financial officer, with £1500 a year, who is to be of acknowledged financial reputation and experience in accounts, always a civilian, of equal rank with the controller-in-chief; he will be assisted by a deputy.



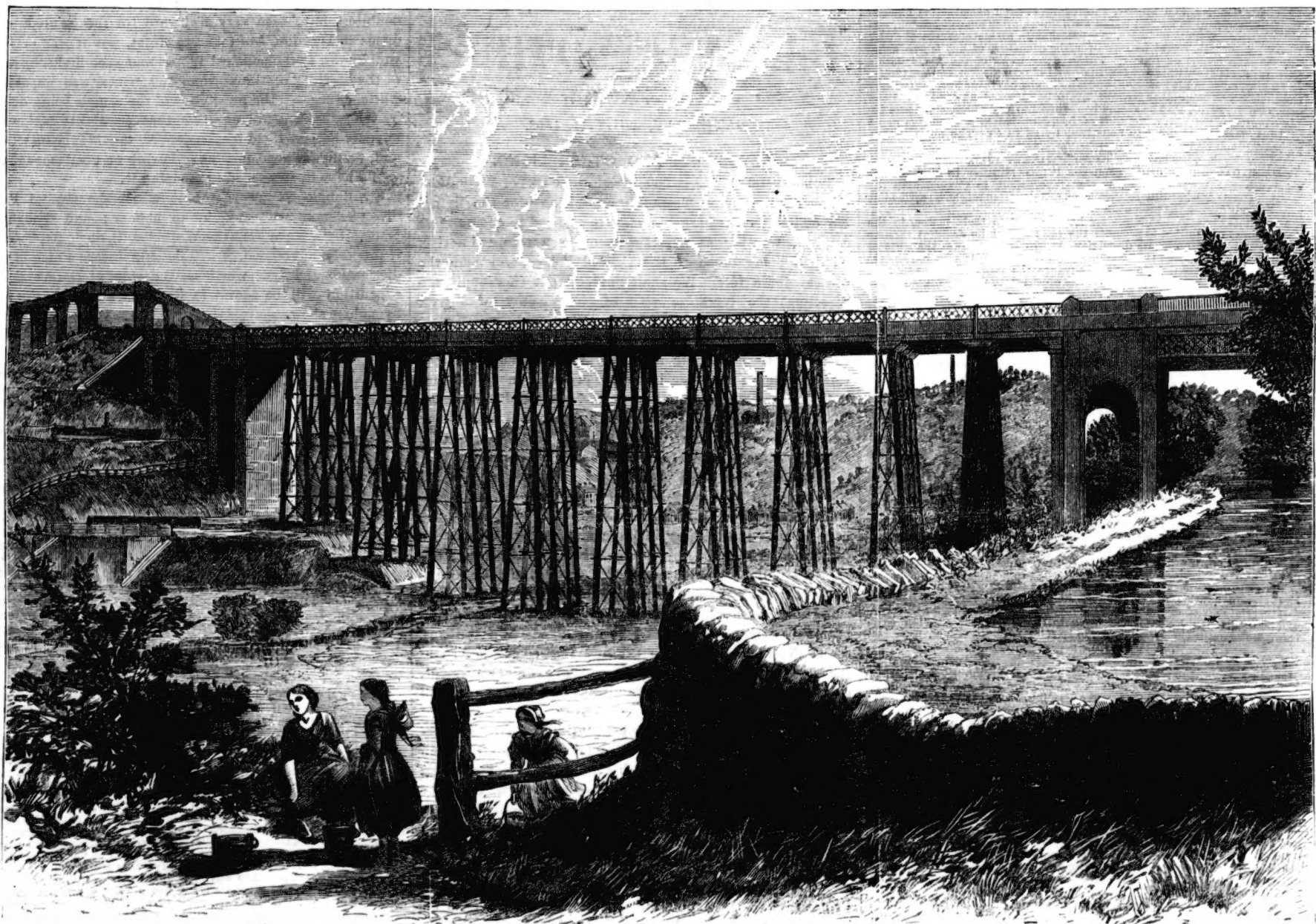
THE EXPERIMENTS AT SHOEBURYNESS: THE PLYMOUTH CASEMATE AFTER ITS FIRST POUNDING.—SEE PAGE 30.

MR. RASSAM.

MR. HORMUDZ RASSAM, whose name has been so prominently before the public in connection with late events in Abyssinia, is a native of the East, and was associated, several years ago, with Mr. A. H. Layard in the excavation of the ruins of Nineveh.

When King Theodore threw Consul Cameron and his companions into prison, and the necessity arose of making an effort to procure their release, Mr. Rassam was selected by Earl Russell, then at the head of the Foreign Office, to proceed to Abyssinia with letters and presents for the offended Monarch, and with instructions to endeavour to procure the release of the prisoners by negotiation.

At first he was well received by Theodore, and hopes were held out that his mission would be successful; but the mood of the fickle barbarian King soon changed, and Mr. Rassam was himself detained as a prisoner. He was still, however, treated with respect by Theodore, who affected to regard him as a friend. Throughout the difficult and perplexing events that



VIADUCT ON THE NEW BARNSLEY BRANCH RAILWAY.

followed, Mr. Rassam conducted himself with great discretion and moderation; and it is not improbable that this fact helped much to induce the King to liberate the captives at last. On the conclusion of the business which had taken him and Sir Robert Napier's army to Abyssinia, Mr. Rassam returned to this country.

While on the subject of Abyssinia, it may be interesting to our readers if we quote the following passages on the subject of King Theodore's household and private life from an interesting paper contributed by Dr. Blanc, another of the captives, to the *Full Mall Gazette*. Dr. Blanc says:—

"Theodore had all the dislikes of the roving Bedouin for town and cities. He loved camp life, the free breeze of the plain, the sight of his army so gracefully encamped around the hillock he had selected for himself; and preferred to the palace the Portuguese had erected at Gondar for a more sedentary King, the delights of roaming about incognito during the beautiful cool nights of Abyssinia. His household was well regulated; the same spirit of order which had introduced something like discipline into his army showed itself also in the arrangements of his domestic affairs. Every department was under the control of a chief, who was responsible to him directly, and answerable for everything connected with the department intrusted to him. These officers, all men of position, were the superintendents of the tedge makers, of the women who prepared the large flat Abyssinian bread, of the wood-carriers, of the water-girls, &c.; others, like the 'Balderafa,' had charge of the royal stud, the 'Azage' of the domestic servants, the 'Girowond' of the treasury, stores, &c.; the Agafaris or introducers, the Likamquas or chamberlain, the Afa Negus or mouth of the King.

"Theodore was more bigoted than religious. Above all things he was superstitious, and that to a degree incredible in a man in other respects so superior to his countrymen. He had always with him several astrologers, whom he consulted on all important occasions—especially before undertaking any expedition—and whose influence over him was unbounded. He hated the priests, despised them for their ignorance, spurned their doctrines, laughed at the marvellous stories some of their books contain; but still never marched without a tent church, a host of priests, deacons, and deacons, and never passed a church without kissing its threshold.

"Though he could read and write, he never condescended to correspond personally with anyone; but was always accompanied by several secretaries, to whom he would dictate his letters; and so wonderful was his memory that he would indite an answer to letters received months, nay years, before, or dilate on subjects and events that had occurred at a far remote period. Suppose him on the march. On a distant hillock arose a small red flannel tent—it is there where Theodore pitched his tent and those of his household. To his right is the church tent; next to his the Queen's or the favourite of the day. Then came the one allotted to his former lady friends, who travelled with him until a favourable opportunity presented itself of sending them to Magdala, where several hundreds were already dwelling in seclusion, spinning cotton for their master's shamas and for their own clothes. Behind were several tents for his secretaries, his pages, his personal attendants, and one for the few stores he carried with him. When he made any lengthened stay at a place he had huts erected by his soldiers for himself and people, and the whole was surrounded by a double line of fences. Though not wanting in bravery, he never left anything to chance. At night the hillock on which he dwelt was completely surrounded by musketeers, and he never slept without having his pistols under his pillow and several loaded guns by his side. He had a great fear of poison, taking no food that had not been prepared by the Queen or her *remplacant*; and even then she and several attendants had to taste it first. It was the same with his drink; be it water tedge, or arrack, the cup-

bearer and several of those present at the time had first to drink before presenting the cup to his Majesty. He made, however, an exception in our favour one day when he visited Mr. Rassam at Gaffat. To show how much he respected and trusted the English, he accepted some brandy; allowing no one to taste it before him, he unhesitatingly swallowed the whole draught.

"Theodore was always an early riser; indeed, he indulged in sleep but very little. Sometimes at two o'clock, at the latest before four, he would issue from his tent and give judgment on any case brought before him. Of late his temper was such that litigants kept out of his way; he nevertheless retained his former habits,



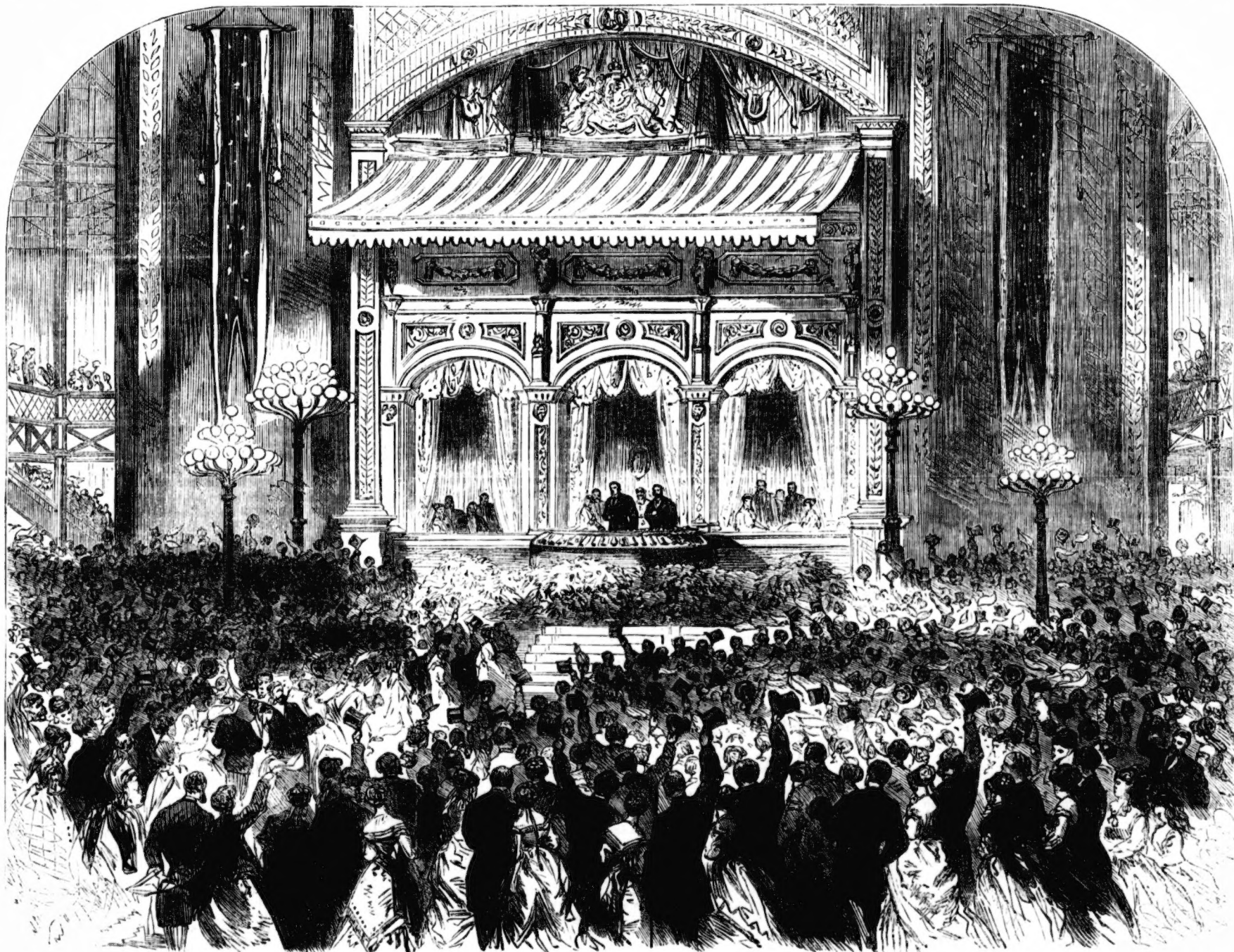
MR. HORMUZD RASSAM, LATE BRITISH ENVOY TO ABYSSINIA.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. WATKINS, PARLIAMENT-STREET.)

and would be seen long before daybreak sitting quite alone on a stone, in deep meditation or in silent prayer. He was also very abstemious in his food, and never indulged in excesses of the table. He rarely partook of more than one meal a day, which was composed of sujra—the pancake leaves made of the small seed of the tef—and red pepper during fast days; of wāt, a kind of curry made of fish, fowl, or mutton, on ordinary occasions. On feast days he generally gave large dinners to his officers, and sometimes to the whole army. At these festivals the 'brindo' would be equally enjoyed by the Sovereign and by the guests. At these public breakfasts and dinners the King usually sat on a

raised platform at the head of the table. No one has ever been known, except perhaps Bell, to have dined out of the same basket at the same time as Theodore; but when he desired specially to honour some of his guests he either sent them some food from his basket, or had others placed on the platform near him, or, what was still a higher honour, sent to the favoured one his own basket with the remains of his dinner.

"Unfortunately for Theodore, he had for several years before his death greatly taken to drink. Up to three or four o'clock he attended to the business of the day, and till then was generally sober; but after his afternoon siesta he was invariably more or less intoxicated. In his dress he was generally very simple, wearing only the ordinary shama (white cotton cloth, with a red border, woven in the country), native-made trousers, and a European white shirt; no shoes, no covering to the head. His rather long hair—for an Abyssinian—was divided in three large plaits, and allowed to fall on his neck in three plaited tails. Of late he had greatly neglected his hair; for months it had not been plaited; and, to show the grief he felt on account of the 'badness' of his people, he would not allow it to be besmeared with the heavy coating of butter in which Abyssinians delight. On one occasion he apologised to us for the simplicity of his dress. He told us that, during the few years of peace that followed the conquest of the country, he used often to appear in public as a King should do; but since he had been, by the bad disposition of his people, obliged to wage constant war against them, he had adopted the soldier's raiments as more becoming his altered fortune. However, after his fall became obviously certain, he had on several occasions clad himself in gorgeous costumes, in shirts and mantles of rich brocaded silks or of gold-embroidered velvet. He did so, I believe, to influence his people. They knew that he was poor, and, though he hated pomp in his own attire, he desired to impress on his few remaining followers that, though fallen, he was still 'the King.'

"During the lifetime of his first wife, and for some years afterwards, Theodore not only led an exemplary life but forbade the officers of his household and the chiefs more immediately around him to live in concubinage. One day, in the beginning of 1860, Theodore perceived in a church a handsome young girl silently praying to her patron, the Virgin Mary. Struck with her beauty and modesty, he made inquiries about her, and was informed that she was the only daughter of Dejach Oubé, the Prince of Tigre, his former rival, whom he had dethroned, and who was then his prisoner. He asked for her hand, and met with a polite refusal. The young girl desired to retire into a convent and devote herself to the service of God. Theodore was not a man to be easily thwarted in his desires. He proposed to Oubé that he would set him at liberty, only retaining him in his camp as his 'guest,' should the Prince prevail on his daughter to accept his hand. At last Woizero Tournish ('you are my sister') sacrificed herself for her old father's welfare, and accepted the hand of a man whom she could not love. This union was unfortunate. Theodore, to his great disappointment, did not find in his second wife the fervent affection, the almost blind devotion, of the dead companion of his youth. Woizero Tournish was proud; she always looked on her husband as a parvenu, and took no trouble to hide from him her want of regard and affection. In the afternoon, Theodore, as it had been his former habit, tired and weary, would retire for rest in the Queen's tent. But he found no warm welcome there. His wife's looks were cold and full of pride; and she even went so far as to receive him without the common courtesy due to her King. One day when he came in she pretended not to perceive him, did not rise, and remained silent to his polite inquiries as to her health and welfare. She was holding in her hand a book of psalms, and when Theodore asked her why she did not answer him, she calmly replied, without lifting up her eyes from the book she held, 'Because I



GRAND FETE AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE IN HONOUR OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH: THE PRINCE IN THE ROYAL BOX.—SEE PAGE 3.

am conversing with a greater and better man than you, the pious King David.

"Theodore sent her to Magdala, together with her new-born son, Alamyon ('I have seen the world'), and took as his favourite a widowed lady from Gedjow, named Woizero Tamagno (a rather coarse, lascivious-looking person, the mother of five children by her former husband), who soon obtained such an ascendancy over his mind that he publicly proclaimed 'that he had divorced and discarded Tournish, and that Tamagno should in future be considered by all as the Queen.' 'Il n'y a que le premier pas qui compte.' Soon Woizero Tamagno had numerous rivals; but she was a woman of tact. Far from complaining, she rather encouraged Theodore in his debauchery, and, instead of being displeased, she would always receive him with a smile. One day she said to her fickle lord, who felt rather astonished at her forbearance, 'Why should I be jealous? I know you love but me; what is it if you stoop now and then to pick up some flowers to beautify them by your breath?'

"Both Queens and Alamyon accompanied the English army in its march back. Woizero Tamagno left with feelings of gratitude for the kindness and attention she had received at the hands of the English Commander-in-Chief, as soon as she could with safety return to her native land, Gedjow. But poor Tournish died at Aikulet; freedom and liberty were not to be her lot. Her child, Alamyon, the son of Theodore, and grandchild of Oubé, has now reached the English shore, an orphan, an exile, but not uncared for."

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

"ROMEO E GIULIETTA," the great novelty of last year, was not produced until the season was nearly at an end. Naturally, then, its reproduction, on Thursday, at the Royal Italian Opera caused a very full attendance. The work was magnificently played, and the applause with which each important piece was received showed that its beauties were fully appreciated. Mdlle. Adelina Patti's Giulietta is, indeed, one of the most delightful creations ever beheld on the stage. In the earlier scenes of the opera Mdlle. Patti has only to be natural and spontaneous to be herself; in short, to realise completely our idea of Shakespeare's heroine. And although M. Gounod's music can scarcely be said to replace advantageously the poetry of Shakespeare, the want is supplied by Mdlle. Patti's voice, and by her thoroughly beautiful singing; so that, taking it altogether, Mdlle. Patti's operatic Juliet is as perfect and poetical a Juliet as can well be imagined. Signor Mario's Romeo is, in some respects, one of his best impersonations. Probably no tenor could be found young enough to look the part, and experienced enough to know how to sing it, as—in regard to intention, at least—it is sung by Signor Mario. We have heard the great tenor in better voice than he was last Thursday; but he never acted better, and he sang a phrase here and there in impeccable style. The general cast is almost identical with that of last year; but any distribution of characters including Signor Mario as Romeo and Mdlle. Patti as Giulietta must be excellent. The opera is splendidly mounted, and is almost worth going to see as a spectacle alone.

At Her Majesty's Opera Mdlle. Christine Nilsson has re-appeared as Margherita, in "Faust." The impersonation is as charming as it is complete; and if the appearance of a vocalist can prepossess an audience in her favour, the success of Mdlle. Nilsson as Margherita is well-nigh assured before she begins to sing. Not that her singing would not, under all circumstances, touch the heart of anyone who had a heart to be touched; and the tones of her voice are so expressive, that her singing, apart altogether from her acting, is itself highly dramatic. But the stage business of the part is also irreproachably gone through; and the general effect of the performance upon the public is akin to that of fascination. The attention of the audience is entirely absorbed by the Margherita of the evening, from her first entry upon the stage until the close of the prison scene, in which the pale, fair-haired girl, in her simple grey dress, is seen reclining, but not sleeping, on her little bed of straw.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse, Princess Louise, and the Princess of Leiningen attended the eighth concert of the Philharmonic Society at the Hanover-square Rooms last Monday. The illustrious visitors arrived just after Signor Bettini had given the audience his idea of "Il mio tesoro," and the orchestra immediately played the National Anthem. The concert was for the most part excellent. Two symphonies, both masterpieces, were exceedingly well played, under the direction of Mr. Osuin, who also took infinite pains with the new overture composed for the Philharmonic Society by Mr. Benedict—an overture in E major, one of the brightest, freshest, and most ingeniously scored orchestral compositions of that distinguished master. No new work in our remembrance has enjoyed the advantage of a more admirable first performance. Auber's brilliant Exhibition overture, in the same key, was equally happy. The singing was excellent. Mdlle. Trebelli-Bettini did all that could possibly be done for a somewhat dull and inflated air from "Il Giuramento;" and Mdlle. Christine Nilsson gave the beautiful romance from "Robert," together with Auber's "Chanson des Djins" and one of her own Swedish melodies, in the most perfect and enchanting manner conceivable.

Six Songs with German Words. The English Translations and Music by AMY COYNE. Duncan Davison and Co.

Miss Amy Coyne, of whose merit as a pianist we have more than once had occasion to speak, has now come before the public in the character of a composer and poetical translator. Of the six songs translated and set to music by Miss Coyne, four are from the pen of Geibel, who, in the world of music, is especially known as the author of the libretto on the subject of Lorelei, which Mendelssohn took in hand, but unhappily did not live to complete. Of Miss Coyne's two other poets, Herlossohn and Beck, we know nothing, except that the lines by the former called "Ich bleibe treu" ("Fidelity," in Miss Coyne's translation), are flowing and well adapted for musical setting; and that the latter's "Ich liebe dich" ("Evening Sounds") is full of thought, sentiment, and fancy, and altogether a very charming little poem. "Fidelity" seems to us one of Miss Coyne's successful performances, in a musical point of view; and in "Evening Sounds" she reproduces to perfection the spirit of the poetry for which we have just expressed our admiration. "The Victory of Spring" is remarkable for an elaborate and ingenious accompaniment; but in all the six pieces the accompaniment plays a more important part than in the majority of English songs. Indeed, Miss Coyne is not only an inventor of tunes; she has studied the art of composition in a good school and with excellent results. "Farewell for ever" is a pleasing, graceful specimen of sentimental writing; and "Parted" is in a similar style. The most eminently pretty of Miss Coyne's melodies is the one to which she has set Geibel's "Viel tausend, tausend küsse gieb"—called, in English, "The Request." The six songs may be purchased separately or together in the same wrapper.

A NEW METHOD OF CUTTING OR RATHER DIVIDING GLASS has been recently invented in France, and is practised in the large establishment of the Glass Company of Balcarrat. A jet of highly-heated air is directed from a tube on the vase or other object to be cut, which, while made to revolve on its axis, is brought close to the nozzle of the tube. The object being then cooled suddenly, the glass divides at the place operated on with extreme accuracy.

THE TELEGRAPH BILL.—At Monday's sitting of the Committee on the Telegraphs Bill, an important announcement was made by Mr. Hope Scott on the part of the railway companies. It was to the effect that agreements had been come to with the Great Northern, London and North-Western, Great Western, Midland, and North-Eastern, and that there was every probability of the Lancashire and Yorkshire and London and South-Western speedily coming to terms. Each company is to have its own system of telegraphs on railways and canals, independently of the Post Office wires, and the Post Office are to have a perpetual way leave over railway lines, the companies erecting and maintaining all wires and poles on the railways. The Post Office will pay for those belonging to them on terms to be settled by arbitration or mutually agreed upon.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY left Windsor Castle for Osborne on Wednesday afternoon, accompanied by Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold.

THE QUEEN has transmitted the sum of £500 to the Jubilee Fund of the Incorporated Church Building Society. During the fifty years of its existence, the society has assisted 5366 places, obtaining by its grants 1,413,933 additional seats in churches, 1,084,204 being reserved for the poor, free and unappropriated for ever. The Bishop of London has consented to preach for the society at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, on Sunday morning next, the 12th inst.

THE KING OF ITALY has just passed through Turin on his way to Aosta, to shoot chamois among the glaciers.

THE KING OF HOLLAND, who is making an excursion in Switzerland, has arrived at Lucerne, where he proposes to stay a few days.

THE CROWN PRINCE OF DENMARK has arrived at Copenhagen, on his return from his visit to England.

THE POET LONGFELLOW visited her Majesty at Windsor Castle last Saturday, by special invitation. On the morning of that day he favoured the artists of the London Stereoscopic Company with a series of sittings.

MR. REVERDY JOHNSON, the new American Minister to this country, is to leave the United States for England on Aug. 1. Mrs. Lincoln and her son will travel with him as far as Liverpool.

THE CHINESE EMBASSY have returned to New York from Washington, and their early departure for Europe may be looked for. Just before leaving the American capital the Celestials attended a party given them by General Grant.

THE EARL OF CARNARVON has accepted the presidency of the Social Science Congress, to be held in Birmingham in September next.

MR. BRIGHT is now in Ireland, on a visit to Mr. Peabody, at Castle Connell. On his arrival in Limerick he was received with much enthusiasm from a large assembly of the citizens, headed by Mr. Gavin, M.P., and Dean O'Brien. The hon. member has accepted an invitation to a public breakfast at Cork on Monday next.

THE BRITISH FRIGATE CHANTICLEER is, we learn, blockading Mazatlan, in Mexico, on account of an insult to our flag.

GARIBALDI'S ELDEST SON, MENOTTI, is about to be married to a young lady named Italia Bedeschini, born at Smyrna, and living in Padua.

SOME "LEADING LIBERALS" of Greenwich are endeavouring to return Mr. Gladstone for that borough without any expense to himself. Their efforts, they say, need not interfere with the right hon. gentleman's candidature for South Lancashire.

PROFESSOR GROTE, the historian of Greece, was last Saturday unanimously elected president of London University College, in the room of Lord Brougham, deceased. The high literary attainments and position of Mr. Grote eminently fit him for this distinguished post.

MR. JAMES HANNAY has been appointed by Lord Stanley to the vacant Consular position at Brest, and the appointment has received her Majesty's approval.

ARTHUR FORRESTER SMITH AND HECTOR AUGUSTUS SMITH were on Wednesday tried and sentenced—the first to seven years' penal servitude, the second to eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour—for the attack on Mrs. Nunn.

THE HUNGARIAN DIET is about to have laid before it a marriage bill similar to that just passed in Austria. Notwithstanding the hostility of the clergy, little doubt is entertained at Pesth that the measure will pass.

MENOTTI GARIBALDI has declared entirely unfounded the rumours of enrolments of Garibaldian volunteers in Italy for a fresh expedition against Rome, which have for some time been circulating in the Italian and French press.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY MEN OF AMERICA have been considerably excited by the news that two fugitive slaves from Cuba were returned on an American steamer to their master in Havannah.

TWO EAGLES attempted to take a piece of flesh from a fox, in the neighbourhood of Ballater, the other day. Reynard, however, showed fight and beat off his assailants.

LEUTENANT LE SAINT, the French African traveller, has died while engaged in exploring the country about the White Nile. He had already overcome many difficulties, and reached Abou-Kouka, within some sixty leagues north of Gondokoro, when he fell a victim, at the age of thirty-five, to the insalubrity of the climate.

A LIFE-BOAT, built on a new plan, and intended to cross the Atlantic, was upset on a trial-trip on Lake Michigan, off Chicago, and three of her passengers were drowned.

THE GROOM WHO POISONED THE MARE LITTLE SALLY, the property of Mr. Smallridge, of Littlehampton, has been sentenced to penal servitude for five years for the offence.

THE EDITOR of the *Courrier de Lyons*, having said something displeasing to the Algerian Administration, has been summoned to Algeria to answer for his offence before the Tribunal of Correctional Police of the colony.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND REGULARS had a field-day at Woolwich last Saturday. Upwards of 6000 troops (including many troops of artillery and guns) engaged in a mimic battle on Woolwich-common. General Warde, the commandant of the local garrison, took command of the forces.

THE TOWN OF EISENACH, in Saxo-Weimar, has just given an example of religious toleration in appointing the same cemetery for the interment of Protestants, Catholics, and Jews.

THE CASE OF MADAME RACHEL was called at the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday, but was postponed to the next Sessions, on the ground that further time was wanted properly to prepare the defence, and that the defendant was suffering from a painful malady, which required rest.

A WAR OFFICE RETURN shows that since Jan. 1, 1864, four Major-Generals and seventeen Colonels of the Royal Artillery have retired on £600 a year; and also one Major-General and ten Colonels of the Royal Engineers. The ages of these officers varied from forty-eight to seventy-four.

IN A RECENT SCULLING-MATCH on the Schuylkill one of the boats used was made of paper, and constructed upon an American patent. In this boat a man named Tyler rowed over the course in 21 min. 57½ sec. The boat weighs 27 lb., and is 35 ft. long, and 10 in. wide.

FRANCE is to have an Atlantic cable. A concession has been granted for twenty years to Baron d'Erlanger and Mr. Reuter, and a line will be put in hand at once and laid as speedily as may be from Brest to the United States.

A GRAND REVIEW AND SHAM FIGHT, in which over 10,000 men were engaged, took place, in the Queen's Park, Edinburgh, on Saturday. The forces were under the command of Major-General Rumley.

MR. J. F. WILKINSON, the managing director of the Joint-Stock Discount Company, who was found guilty, at the Central Criminal Court, in January, 1867, of criminal misappropriation, and sentenced to five years' penal servitude, having been proved to be entirely innocent of the crime laid to his charge, has been set at liberty by order of the Home Secretary.

A BOOKBINDER, OF POSEN, NAMED WITTMANN, thirty-two years of age, has just been tried for having poisoned, between the years 1862 and 1866, four women whom he had successively married; also his son, three years old. He was found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged.

DR. NATHANS, a Jewish Rabbi in America of great ability, advocates a union of Jews and Unitarians. "Judaism," he declares, "has always been a true vindicator of pure, clear, Unitarianism; and will, under a scientific and national reform, join to fulfil the closing of the prayer, 'On this day may the Lord be one, and his name, which exists in his people, be one!'"

FATHER SECCI, the constructor of the great astronomical clock so much remarked at the Universal Exhibition of 1867, has discovered a motive power lighter, stronger, and more economical than steam. The learned Italian is said to have laid his invention before the Court of Portugal, which is disposed to purchase it.

AN ACCOMPlice in the MURDER OF PRINCE MICHAEL OF SERBIA arrived in Paris charged to kill young Milan, in his tutor's apartment, at the same hour as his uncle was to fall in the park at Topchidre. Happily, this agent, having gorged himself with fruit, was taken ill on reaching the French capital, and died in an hospital the very day he was to have committed the crime.

DR. DECAISNE communicated to the French Academy of Medicine, at its last session, a memoir in which he demonstrates by a great number of cases that the premature use of tobacco has most pernicious effects on children, and positively deteriorates the blood, besides imparting a predilection for drinking.

THE PONTIFICAL MILITARY ALMANACK has just been distributed to the diplomatic body at Rome. In the Papal army there are 8 Generals, 24 Chaplains, and 704 officers, thus divided as to nationalities—464 Italians, 129 French, 59 Swiss, 19 Germans, 20 Belgians, 9 Dutchmen, and 4 English.

MESSRS. WARNE AND CO. have published another "wonderful" edition of Shakespeare's works, in a series called "Chandos Classics." The volume is sold for a shilling; and the publishers claim the priority of intention as regards the issue of a shilling Shakespeare.

"TINKER," a pony which was sent down Westerton Pitt, Newcastle, thirty years ago, and only once brought to bank for a few days during that long period, was last week finally brought up the shaft, and knocked off work for the remainder of his life.

A LAND-TURTLE has been known to make thirty-seven annual visits to a particular locality on the farm of James A. Smith, near Mapleville, Burdillville, R. I. Whenever seen by Mr. Smith himself he has caught his turtleship and marked the year on the shell. The first one, still quite legible, is "J. A. S., 1831." The other years inscribed are 1834, 1840, 1844, 1845, 1852, 1856, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1868.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

A LARGE number of gentlemen who served on John Stuart Mill's committee in 1865 have taken their names off the list. They disapprove of Mr. Mill's conduct in the matter of the prosecution of ex-Governor Eyre, and have shown in this way their disapproval. They do not entirely like John Stuart Mill, and they will support—positively or negatively—some other man whom they do not like at all. This philosophy of action at elections is not uncommon, especially amongst Liberals. The Conservatives adhere to their men much closer than the Liberals. "He is a Conservative, and were he a mere stick I would vote for him." Such is Conservative policy. I have been a voter ever since the year 1830, and my policy has been invariably this—"Always vote so as to keep the Tory out. The Liberal candidate may go too far, or not far enough; he may differ from me on some subjects; but are his politics generally Liberal? If so, I shall vote for him." Always "keep the Tory out;" that was my motto. But, though these gentlemen have withdrawn from Mill's committee, he will get in nevertheless. It has been ascertained, I am authoritatively told, that the new constituency will counterbalance all these defections, and carry him in, some say by a thousand majority. And I can easily imagine this. In my experience, I have always found that the artisans have fewer crotchets than the shopkeepers, and are vastly more independent. An ardent friend of Mill, when I was walking with him through Eaton-square, mournfully sighed, "Our friend will have all this quarter against him." "Perhaps so," said I; "but voters here are sparse. Come with me into old Westminster, and I will show you a comparatively few square yards of houses on which there are now more voters than there are in all Belgravia." My opinion is that the coming general election will astonish us all.

At Bedford a remarkable incident has occurred. This borough has generally for years returned one and one. The members now are Mr. Samuel Whitbread, whom we know as one of the most rising men in the House, and Colonel William Stuart. Colonel Stuart retires, not willingly, but perforce. He is an exceedingly respectable man; but, after serving the Conservatives of Bedford for twelve years, they have given him, for reasons unknown to me, notice to quit; and mean to try to replace him by Captain Polhill Turner, son of the late Captain Polhill, well known formerly in the theatrical world. The Liberals will put up Mr. Whitbread, of course, and Mr. James Howard, the famous agricultural implement manufacturer, and his advent as a Liberal is the remarkable incident to which I have alluded. The Howards have for the best part of a century zealously supported the Tory interests in the town, and Mr. James, of course, went with his family, and no doubt for several years was an honest, conscientious Conservative. But it has been long known that he was growing too big for his Tory garments; that they were cracking in all directions, and must be cast off. Mr. Howard is a very intelligent man; he has read much, and thought more; moreover, in carrying on his large business he has had to travel far and wide, even to Egypt and the United States, and we all know how travel expands minds capable of expansion. When the Tories determined to eject their old, faithful servant, they cast their eyes upon Mr. Howard—sent a requisition to him, in fact. For a time he was silent, but at length he was obliged to reply; and then, in one of the best written letters which I ever read—parts of it have appeared in most of the papers—he announced the change which had come over him, and gave forth his new confession of faith. The Liberals wanted a second candidate, and they at once sent him a requisition to stand. After due consideration he consented; and these two, Mr. Whitbread and Mr. Howard, who have so often been antagonists, are to march under the same banner, shoulder to shoulder; and, unless I am misinformed, will be seen seated together on the Liberal side of the House. There, now, I call that a pretty story, Mr. Editor.

Last week the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Society held its anniversary, at Newmarket. After dinner, the health of the county members was proposed; and, as Lord Royston was present, he, of course, returned thanks. His speech was rather long for an after-dinner oration, was somewhat wandering and inconsequential, and hardly deserving notice in your columns but for the fact that his Lordship fell foul of Mr. Weston Hatfield, the editor of the *Independent Press*, because he inserted in his paper a paragraph commenting on his Lordship's public doings. This paragraph was copied from the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, and as I wrote it, you cannot think how honoured I feel when I reflect that I have ruffled the feathers of a Lord. But, mind you, I only ruffled his feathers; the noble Lord was not hurt. Indeed, I did not try, nor would I try, to hurt him, for the paragraph was but a mild comment on his official position and doings. I confess I think that officers of the Royal household ought not to be in Parliament; but if his Lordship would but be silent, I know not that we could have a better comptroller than he. I am sure he is, if no more, very ornamental.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Hot weather is unfavourable to criticism, because it produces the mood of Toots, and everything is of no consequence, thank you. But there are one or two things which I can say with confidence about the magazines this month. One is, that in strong interest the stories of the *St. James's*—"A Life's Assize" and "Hirell"—take high rank. A critical friend of mine, who has read "Hirell" more attentively than I have, says strong things of it. The last situation that I noticed in Mrs. Riddell's own story was worked up with much power.

Of one other thing I am very certain—that "a great door, and effectual" has been opened to the author of "John Halifax." In her story of "The Woman's Kingdom," in *Good Words*, she not only outdoes herself—for her former love-stories have all been chilly—but outdoes nearly all living novelists in the love business. I venture to predict that "The Woman's Kingdom" will be the best of this lady's stories.

The *Cornhill*—it is idle to be always saying that it is good, of course it is good—contains, among other attractive matter, the very great attraction of the first canto of the "Inferno" done into English by the venerable Sir J. Herschel. He insists, and rightly, in my modest opinion, upon the necessity of pure *terza rima* for translating Dante. I fear I have not before given due praise to the story of "Avonhoe," in the *Cornhill*. Miss M. E. Edwards is a very charming illustrator—a milder Du Maurier. The young lady in the letter-bag scene is one of the prettiest and most natural figures the month's magazines contain.

In *St. Pauls* a new story, which opens happily, and shows a great advance in force of handling, is begun by the author of "Aunt Margaret's Trouble" and (a much better book) "Mabel's Progress." It seems to me that "Paul Goslett's Confessions" have attracted far too little notice; they are capital! I defy anyone to get through the last number without two or three good roaring laughs.

In *Macmillan* I was startled to see, what one rarely sees in magazines, half a page of music. It consists of two airs which the author of the very pleasant paper, "Ten Days in the Nivernais," heard played upon the cornemuse. "Realmah" is, this month, not up to the mark.

In *Tinsley's* a writer on Mr. Tennyson's "Lucretius" hits the one fault of this poem—and "Enoch Arden" too—want of climax. Another of *Tinsley's* pretty rural pictures, "Summer in the Suburbs," is very cool and pleasant to look at.

The "Notes and Incidents" of the *Gentleman's Magazine*—one of the best of light periodicals—open with a suggestion that men should take off their hats in the streets when a funeral passes, as people do abroad. Well, who is to begin? Shall we have an Association for the Improvement of Public Manners? This magazine is again good; but the paper on Disraeli is an odd one. In the specimen of his "wit and fire" on page 196, the point of the joke is clean cut out; and while on the same page we are told that Mr. Disraeli has no passion in his nature, we are on page 191, told

that "thought and passion have wrought havoc" with his countenance.

I am glad to see, in *Belgravia*, Mr. R. H. Patterson treating "Sensationalism in Science" as it deserves. There is immense humbug going on in that line. Miss Braddon's poem is spoiled by one bad line:—

And oh! my fears were dire.

"And oh!" Madam, you can do a great deal better than this, if you please. "Come, tune the golden lyre again," as the poet says, and give us a narrative-picturesque poem that will live. I can't say I have really read any of your novels for some time, but I firmly believe you could compose good verses; and if you will only write a new poem, I promise to pitch into it. Don't you call that an inducement?

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The hot weather does not appear to produce signs of inactivity at the PRINCESS'S. Within the last few weeks I have there seen an amateur Hamlet, a new Shylock, a new Juliet; and now a new "Leah"—re-christened "Ruth," because Mosenthal's drama has been "done" by some other gentleman—for Miss Kate Saville. Of the Hamlet and the Shylock I have spoken; now as to the Juliet. I certainly think Miss Neilson's Juliet a very excellent performance, a vast improvement on her rendering of the same character some years ago at the Royalty. The affected French accent has disappeared; there is more subtlety in the ball-room scene, more tenderness in the coaxing dialogue with the nurse, more grace in the love-making, more power in the tragic portions of the play. I remember very well being struck with Miss Neilson's Juliet at the Royalty—the first time, by-the-by, that I had ever seen her play; but I remember, also, thinking that she appeared to have come red-hot from the school of a certain manufacturer of successful stage Juliets, and fearing that what on the surface appeared real would only prove to be, on examination, a parrot-lesson. I will, therefore, confess that I was wrong. Miss Neilson has freed herself from the mannerism gained from "stage masters" and "eloquentists," and has evidently thought out the character for herself. Miss Neilson has faults; but they are not too serious to admit of her becoming one day an actress of whom we may be proud. It is encouraging to think that a lady, so earnest in her art, is gracing a profession in which clever actresses are certainly more the exception than the rule. Miss Neilson was so miserably supported that I refrain from saying anything about the rest of the cast. It is all the more creditable to the Juliet to succeed with such a Romeo and such unfortunate kinsfolk. I don't think "Ruth" an improvement on "Leah"; and I don't think Miss Kate Saville an improvement on Miss Bateman, about whom I did not write in hysterical rapture. Such a sleepy, heavy, wordy essentially German play as "Ruth" it has not been my unfortunate lot to sit out for many a long day. A lecture on the Talmud would have been far more interesting. Mr. Oxenford's version of "Deborah" had at least the merit of conciseness of plot and elision of verbiage. But here we have the same plot spun out to an interminable length, freely scattered with wearying speeches about Christian virtues and Jewish vices, and what Jews suffer in Styria, and what Jews gain in England, and how Christians ought to love Jews, till Christians and Jews alike become an intolerable nuisance. In order to enliven us after these homilies by the pastor, introduced for the express purpose of preaching, we are allowed a comic underplot, new to the play as we have seen it in England. Two violent widows quarrel over the comic man. The widows become so incessantly violent, and the comic man so outrageously comic, that in time they bore the audience as much as the Christians and the Jews. Besides, the game is certainly not worth the candle. Miss Kate Saville—a somewhat hard, unsympathetic, and mannered actress, to my mind—is not powerful enough to keep Morpheus out of the Princess's during such a play in the dog days. What an unfortunate character is that of the young lover in "Leah" or "Ruth," as the case may be! It suddenly turns very fair actors into sticks. Mr. Shore is always careful, and has done some very good things in his time; but he looks so uncommonly awkward and so ridiculously lachrymose as the virtuous Ernest that the audience see that he is out of his element at once, and pity him accordingly.

"Tom Thrasher," a new farce produced this week at the ADELPHI, is, without exception, the very worst farce that has ever been produced at the Adelphi, and that is saying a great deal. There is not a scintillation of the weakest fun in it. How such a piece could have been written, except by a child of ten, and accepted with any chance of its becoming popular, puzzles me indeed. It is a shame to ask Mr. Belmore to attempt to do anything with such a piece, and it is an insult to the public to ask them to sit it out.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Frank Marshall, a gentleman of evident poetical taste, gave a successful reading at the Pimlico Rooms on behalf of the Hospital for Sick Children.

I regret to learn that, in consequence of a severe and dangerous accident to her hand, Mrs. Leigh Murray has been obliged to relinquish, for the present, her professional duties at the PRINCE OF WALES'S. It was at first supposed that amputation of the arm would be necessary; but, fortunately, Mrs. Leigh Murray has been saved from this misfortune, and is at present progressing favourably, though it will be some time before she can hope to reappear upon the stage.

EXPLOSION IN A COAL-PIT.—About nine o'clock on Tuesday morning an explosion of fire-damp occurred in the "Knowles" pit, belonging to Messrs. Gouddard and Son, at Fenton, Staffordshire. At the time a number of men were working in the pit, and four of them—Joseph Booth, David Booth, William Booth (father, son, and nephew), and Benjamin Bould—who were "getting" coal at a depth of 360 yards, were very seriously burnt; so much so, that their recovery is doubtful. The cause of the explosion is believed to be the firing of a shot for blasting purposes, and it is reported there had been for some time an accumulation of gas in the pit, and that some of the workmen the same morning refused on that account to go down the pit.

BRITISH CAPTIVES IN EASTERN AFRICA.—There is good reason to believe that several shipwrecked survivors of the St. Abbs, which was lost in 1855, and of the two boats of H.M. gun-boat Penguin, are at the present moment held in captivity by the Somali tribes, in the eastern parts of Africa. Mr. Henry Angelo, an experienced traveller, has offered to go in search of these poor people, with a view to effect their release; and last Saturday an influential deputation waited upon Sir Stafford Northcote, to ask the assistance of her Majesty's Government. Mr. Angelo distinctly stated that he desired to go, not as a Government agent, but on his own personal responsibility; and Sir Stafford Northcote intimated that if he undertook the mission solely in this spirit, and without expecting the Government either to protect him or to be responsible for his actions, he should consider the application favourably.

A PROTESTANT AND ORANGE HALL IN BELFAST.—Mr. Johnston, of Ballykilbeg, laid the foundation-stone of the Sandy-row Protestant and Orange Hall, in Belfast, on Saturday last. The Rev. Mr. Drew, who was present, gave some interesting anecdotes of Mr. Johnston's early life. Mr. Johnston received his first lessons in Protestantism from Dr. Drew's lips. He was an extraordinary child; he started a newspaper of his own with his spare pocket-money; and often referred to Dr. Drew in it and to Dr. Drew's sermons, and liked both of them very well. After the doctor's speech, his pupil came forward and gave a specimen of the Christianity the doctor taught him, in a speech highly seasoned with soothing allusions to William III. and the Battle of the Boyne. The Orange lodge, by-the-way, seem very much in the same plight as the London music-halls—they have been the cause of much singing, and yet they have not produced a single poet. Dr. Drew wound up his speech with the following moral, which—the sacredness of the theme, of course, excepted—cannot be said to belong to a very much higher order of verse than "Champagne Charlie":—

And, Sandy-row, heart, purse, and hand,
Will stand for Queen and Fatherland;
The people and the Church, we know,
Will guard be in Sandy-row.

Oh! Sandy-row! oh! Sandy-row!
My heart is there where'er I go;
The rivers they shall cease to flow,
Ere I forget thee, Sandy-row.

It is a pity we have no better troops for our Protestant garrison in Ireland than fanatics and fools of this description.—*Sat.*

Literature.

The Annals of Rural Bengal. By W. W. HUNTER, B.A., M.R.A.S., of the Bengal Civil Service. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is an important volume—so important, indeed, that, without meaning to be cynical, it may be doubted if it will command many but class readers. For old Indians, especially of the civil service, it must have great charms, because it will appeal to their natural and pardonable vanity by showing what they have done for India in modern years. But it would be useless to expect the "intelligent reader" to be sufficiently intelligent to revel in minute details of famines and financial dilemmas which took place eighty years ago, and even earlier still. For him there is little or nothing concerning the startling names in Indian history—Clive and Warren Hastings, with the glories of Plassey, &c. And the volume—which is properly a first volume only—closes with the end of the last century, and does not deal with Wellington and the Mahrattas at all. Mr. Hunter has gone to high sources for the materials of his work. Government papers abound; but they have been well hidden, and, when hunted out, prove to be, occasionally, mere wrecks. Happily, they are not too discursive; yet, short as they are, "they impartially retain the evidence of low motives and official incompetence, side by side with the impress of rare devotion and administrative skill. But, taken as a whole, they reveal the secret of England's greatness in the East. They exhibit a small band of our countrymen going forth to govern an unexplored and a half-subdued territory. Before the grave heroism and masterly characters of these men the native mind succumbed." Upon the whole, it is not a pretty picture; but yet it is one well worth pressing upon the modern Indian mind, because something like success has sprung from the miseries which have been. Formerly the extreme privacy of the native life made it difficult or impossible to properly understand what we had got to govern; and although much of that reserve has been conquered, even so late as two years ago, during the famine in Orissa, it was found impossible to render public charity available to the female members of the respectable classes, and many a rural household starved slowly to death without uttering a complaint or making a sign. In 1770, for instance, all Lower Bengal was as much isolated as Orissa, and the consequence was that at least one third the inhabitants died for want of food. Food was useless, because it could not be distributed; and it is easy to see that Government has made enormous progress since then. This depopulation was, as a matter of course in a purely agricultural country, followed by, at least, one third of Bengal running to waste land; and, in consequence of the overtures made to speculative immigrants, there arose something like a *bouleversement* of the landlord and tenant laws. This, and many other matters in the volume, seem to be indispensable subjects for the real Indian student, civil and military, since military officers so frequently are engaged in civil employment. The present column, however, is in no way open to the smallest account of so vast a subject any more than it is to the vaster subject of finance. But the Mohammedan or Hindoo of the present day should be taught that the English have shown him the real value of money; for money is of but little use until its worth is defined. Formerly, anybody who thought himself at all likely to be strong enough would have a coinage of his own. He might be ignorant—he might be unprincipled. The rupee might (say) be worth 1s. 9d. sterling, or it might be worth 2s. 3d., counting the existing rupee at 2s. This was put to rights under Lord Cornwallis, in 1790, and—but no! the subject is not interesting. However, really interesting is the chapter called "The Company's First Attempts at Rural Administration, 1765-90;" and nothing can be more curious and remarkable than the cost of administration at that time and at this. It is tenfold in favour of the present day. And we have to consider the constant land litigation which must go on in a territory of small proprietors, and which never troubles the great majority of Englishmen in the least. And the police—which was the largest, most expensive, and most inefficient "parochial force" in the world—has been reformed to a far greater extent than Sir Robert Peel ever contemplated in giving us the present guardian of the peace in lieu of the ancient and crowsy "Charley." The gaol discipline was simply barbarous. Mr. Hunter affects to confine his attention to the western provinces of Central Bengal, but yet we find his observations are frequently general. He reminds us of the tiger being the too constant "companion of man," of the consequent tiger-money, and of how the wild elephant would pay an evening visit to a village and smash every dwelling-place in search of grain; also of the many forms of robbers, with their fastidious connections, the Thugs and Dacoits. Mr. Hunter also reminds us, once more, that the country we know generally as India is not composed of people all exactly alike, any more than the world is; and he winds up with the story of the Santal war in sufficiently terrible strains. Such brief notes as we have been enabled to make may give interest to the few, besides the many to whom the volume must be of importance. It is hard to speak of diffuseness in the face of unimpeachable authority, but a little concentration might have been tried.

Springdale Abbey. Extracts from the Diaries and Letters of an English Preacher. London: Longman and Co.

Keeping in mind the quotation from Pope on the "English Preacher's" titlepage, that "the first principle of criticism is to consider the nature of the piece and the intent of its author," we are bound to think that the nature of the piece is broad hatred to Dissent, and the intent of the author to cast ridicule on Dissenters. Assuming, as may fairly be assumed, that the author is a clergyman of the Church of England, very dangerous material has been selected for a book of character, observation, and opinions. The banner of Dissenters is weak and in bad taste—far different from the handsome humanity of Sydney Smith, and wanting the fair play of Browning in "Christmas Eve." The English preacher thinks himself a humourist; and, like most men with only that one idea, is mistaken. He is comic about Zoar Chapel and a sect called "Particular Baptists;" and he shows a distinct animus when he makes a Dissenter commit fraud. The Church must be in a bad way when such a weapon is wanted against a little chapel. Once, indeed, the chapel gets a splendid backhanded compliment. A really good man, a Dissenter, is introduced, who says, "Do not condemn Dissent because of some Dissenters." Whereupon the English preacher says, "I tell you what, Mr. Washington—if you will allow me to speak candidly, as you say—since I have been thrown in your way, I have seen that men may be better than their creed; that Dissenters may be better than Dissent." Such things are blemishes on a book which begins well and may certainly claim to rival A. K. H. B. There are observations of a kind rare in these days, such as, "My own experience has gone to show that sorrow acquires a deeper and tenderer pathos from one's very love of laughter. I am always most prepared for an intensely religious exercise after a laugh that has made me cry, and I can always preach best after a thorough spell at a good game." The description of taking the shower bath is really humorous; but it was surely needless for the author to recommend his readers to wash. Such a book is not likely to fall into the hands of such as might need the advice. There is much character in "Springdale Abbey"—the didactic man, the candid man, and so forth. Squire Fogden is good, but there is too much of him. He is so laboriously precise that he never finishes a sentence, his remembrance of his thought not lasting long enough.

There is plenty in "Springdale Abbey" to lead people of different persuasions to fight their battles over again. The Church is very militant indeed.

A Practical Manual of Shipping Law. By WILLIAM A. OLIVER, Solicitor. London: James Imray and Sons and George Routledge and Sons.

This is by no means everybody's book, but no captain of a merchant-ship should be without it. Mr. Oliver has printed something like it before, but on a much smaller scale. As it is, the volume is small enough, and so far has the merit of not looking lawyer-like; but it

professes to be no more than a short summary of the law on the subject, and the information has been given in as plain and concise a manner as possible. In the absence of a sea-lawyer on board, which no sailor could tolerate, this book might lie on the captain's table with very great advantage to himself and all concerned.

The History of the Caliph Vathek. By WILLIAM BECKFORD, Esq. Reprinted Verbatim from the First Edition, with the Original Prefaces and Notes by Henley. Bayard Series. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

Beckford's "Vathek" is here presented to us as one of the beautifully-got-up works included in Messrs. Low and Company's "Bayard Series," every one of which is a gem, and the "Caliph Vathek" is, perhaps, the gem of the collection. Those who are not already familiar with the result of Beckford's "three days' work"—if there be any such—will make acquaintance with it in a pleasing form in this neat little volume; and those already familiar with the Caliph's history will here be enabled, no less pleasantly, to renew acquaintance with an old and ever agreeable friend. The work is prefaced by a memoir of the author. We may add here, though we have already had occasion to notice the "Bayard Series," that every one of the works included in it is well worth possessing, and the whole will make an admirable foundation for the library of a studious youth of polished and refined tastes.

Poems, Songs, and Letters, being the complete Works of Robert Burns, edited from the best printed and manuscript authorities, with Glossarial Index, and a Biographical Memoir, by ALEXANDER SMITH. Globe Edition. London: Macmillan and Co.

The Globe editions of Messrs. Macmillan and Co. are all of a high order of merit in respect of the pains devoted to editing, printing, and general get-up of the works included in the series; and the late Alexander Smith's edition of the works of the Scottish bard is distinguished by all the excellences to be expected in a book edited by him and published by the eminent Cambridge and London firm. This work, moreover, derives a peculiar interest from the recent death of the editor, whose memoir of Burns is, as might be expected, warmly appreciative of the merits of the subject, and not, like some biographies of the poet, distinguished by giving special prominence to his faults, though these, where it was necessary to name them at all, are neither slurred over nor exalted into virtues. The memoir, in short, is truthful, and does its subject fair justice. The volume is altogether a very handsome and a very desirable one.

Reprint of the First Glasgow Directory: a Useful Pocket Companion for the Year 1787. Glasgow: W. Love.

This is a reprint of a very curious little work, originally published in Glasgow in 1787, under the title of "Jones's Directory." It contains much curious information regarding the then condition of the western metropolis of Scotland; and, with the introduction and notes of old Glasgow celebrities supplied by the gentleman who has edited this reissue, and who conceals his identity under the name of "The Rambling Reporter," will be exceedingly interesting to all who desire to study the progress of the great city on the banks of the Clyde, and who, having seen her as she is now, would like to know something of what she was like then.

MR. EDWIN SUTTON, of Regent-street, from whose large photograph of Sir Robert Napier our Engraving is taken, has also executed a beautiful miniature portrait of the General for her Majesty the Queen.

SEVENTEEN "RESIDENT MAGISTRATES"—that is, official magistrates appointed and paid by the Government, have been sent to various parts of the province of Ulster to do special duty during the July anniversaries.

THE WIFE OF JOHN GUERNSEY, a mechanic employed in the engineer department at Chatham Dockyard, gave birth, on Wednesday, to four girls, all of whom were born alive. Recently the wife of a private soldier at Chatham gave birth to three children, all of whom are living.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The Select Committee which was appointed some months ago to consider what alterations could be made in the arrangements of the House of Commons have issued their report. It is acknowledged that the existing chamber is defective in the necessary extent of accommodation, and it is therefore proposed to construct a new house on the space now occupied by the commons court and the dining-rooms. The new building would seat 141 more members, 12 more peers, 14 more ladies, and 67 more strangers than have hitherto been accommodated in the lower house. Mr. Barry's estimate of the expense is £120,000.

THE DROUGHT.—Such a dry hot season as the present has not been known in the south of England for the last seventy years. There is not the slightest trace of dew at night. This excessive dryness is owing to the prevailing polar currents. If we could get equatorial currents they would be loaded with vapour, and we should get rain. In all parts water has to be taken to sheep and other cattle. In the neighbourhood of Salisbury and other places where there are great numbers of sheep, water-carts are in use from morning to night. It is found more advisable to take water to the cattle than to drive the latter along hot dusty roads to watering-places. It is curious that large quantities of rain have fallen in New York.

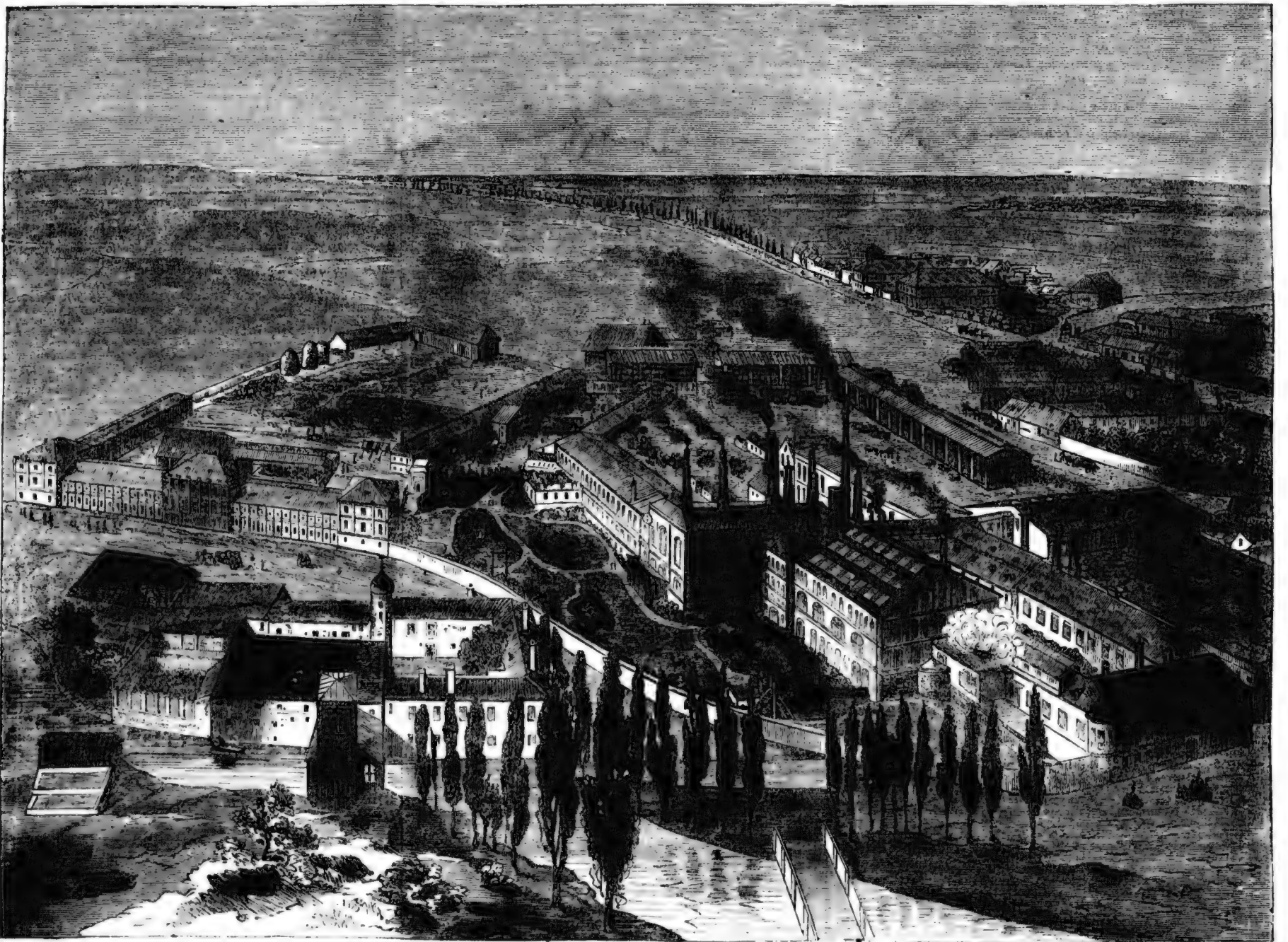
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING WINDOW GARDENING IN WESTMINSTER.—The third flower show of this society, held on Tuesday in Dean's-yard, was visited by Princess Louis of Hesse, the Dean of Westminster, Lady Augusta Stanley, Lady Stanley of Alderley, Lady Charlotte Locker, Lord Moury, Lord Justice Wood, and Lady Wood, &c. The show was better than on any former occasion, and the prizes awarded to working men and women, domestic servants, nurses in hospitals, and school children, were presented to the competitors by the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lady Augusta Stanley handing to each of them a pamphlet of "Window Gardening," published under the auspices of the Social Science Association. Lord Shaftesbury adverted to the prevalence of impure and sensual literature among the juvenile poor, and the necessity of counteracting it, and urged the importance of instilling pure thoughts and tastes into children by bringing them in contact with the works of nature; and this could not be better done than by means of window gardening, with the hope of a prize at an annual flower show. The proceedings were of a very animated description, the exhibitors and their friends mixing with the general company, and the band of the A division of police being in attendance. The Rev. Canon Conway reminded the visitors that the society was supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions.

THE PRINTERS' PENSION, ALMSHOUSE, AND ORPHAN ASYLUM CORPORATION.—These three combined charities, incorporated by Royal Charter, held the anniversary festival on Tuesday evening, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, under the presidency of the Dean of Westminster. The pension society was established in 1827, and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1865; out of that society grew the almshouse institution in 1841, and which was incorporated with the parent society in 1866; and as a natural consequence of these two charities an orphan asylum was established in 1863, and incorporated with the two others in the present year. Thus a most excellent institution has been brought into action for granting pensions to aged and infirm printers and widows of printers, for providing permanent residences for like persons, and, finally, for the establishing of schools for the education and maintenance of orphan children of printers. It appeared by the report of Mr. Hodson, the secretary, that there were eighty-four persons receiving pensions varying in amount from £13 to £25 for men and £9 to £13 for widows; that there were twelve sets of apartments at the almshouses at Wood-green, all occupied, and that a liberal allowance was made to the inmates towards their support; while at present there were four children educated, clothed, and provided for in the orphanage. The subscriptions amounted to upwards of £540, including a gift from a native printer of Bombay of £100.

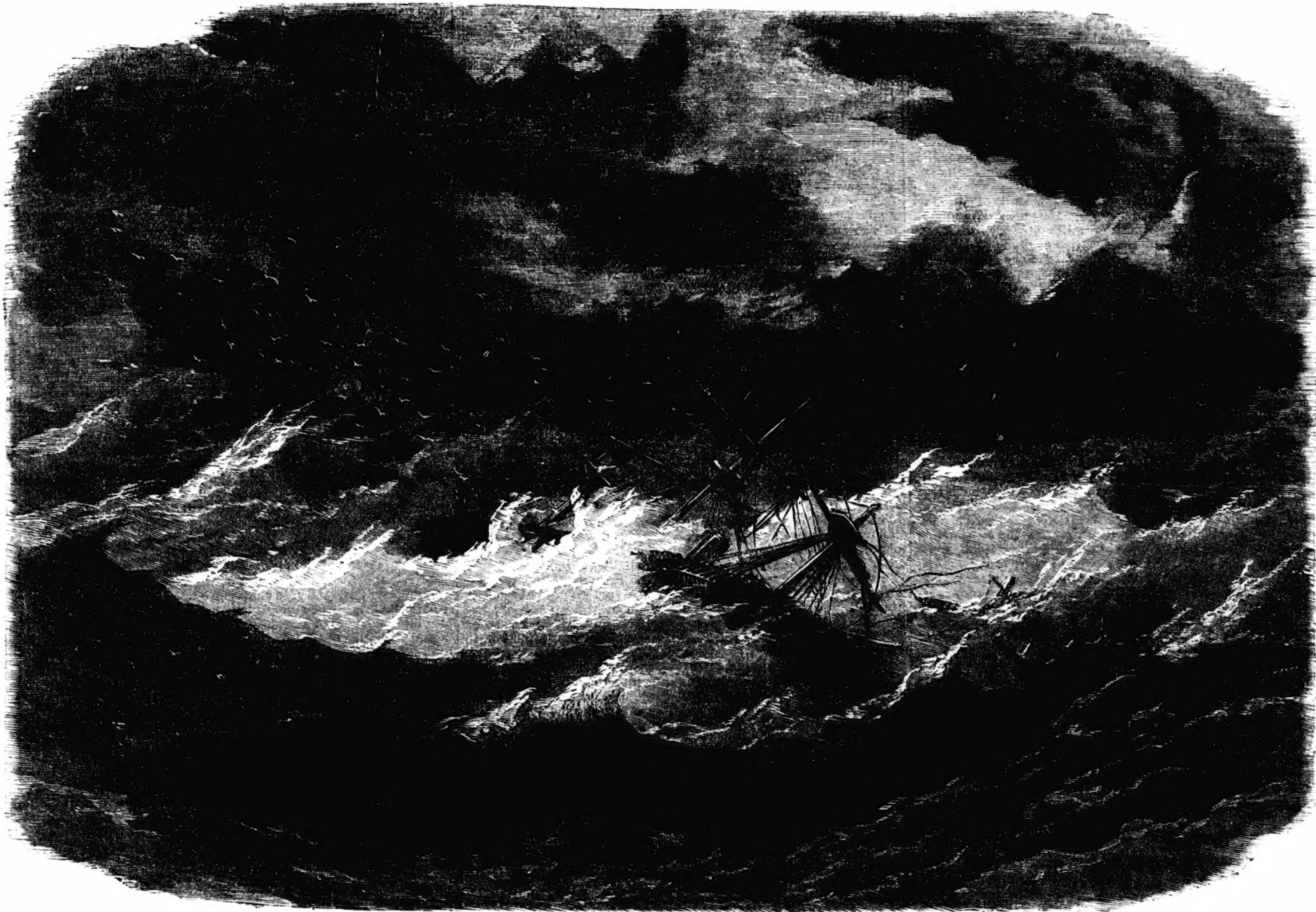
DEATH OF SAMUEL LOVER.—Samuel Lover, wit, poet, novelist, musician, and artist, died, on Monday, at a pleasant retreat in Jersey, to which he had retired about eighteen months since. Mr. Lover's partial and indiscriminating friends used to compare him with Thomas Moore, but no one protested more energetically against the comparison than the deceased gentleman himself. He knew perfectly well that he filled a much lower position on the ladder of Fame, and was quite content to be regarded as the most successful among the imitators of the great little man. One striking difference between Moore and Lover was that while the former was essentially the poet of the drawing-room, the muse of the latter appealed more generally to the people. Few of Moore's melodies were more popular in their day than "The Four-leaved Shamrock," "The Angel's Whisper," "Molly Bawn," and "The Low-backed Car." The similarity between Moore and Lover extended even to their personal appearance. Both were small men, with bright eyes and an intensely Irish expression of countenance; both were in the habit of singing their own songs, and the statement which will be found more than once in Moore's biography that the poet's singing was rather a recitation accompanied by the piano than the actual delivery of a song, applied equally to Lover. This peculiarity, admirable in a drawing-room, where the limited company can group round the piano, in a great measure prevented the success of a public entertainment which Lover essayed. Mr. Lover, who had for some time enjoyed a Government pension of £100 a year, was seventy years of age.



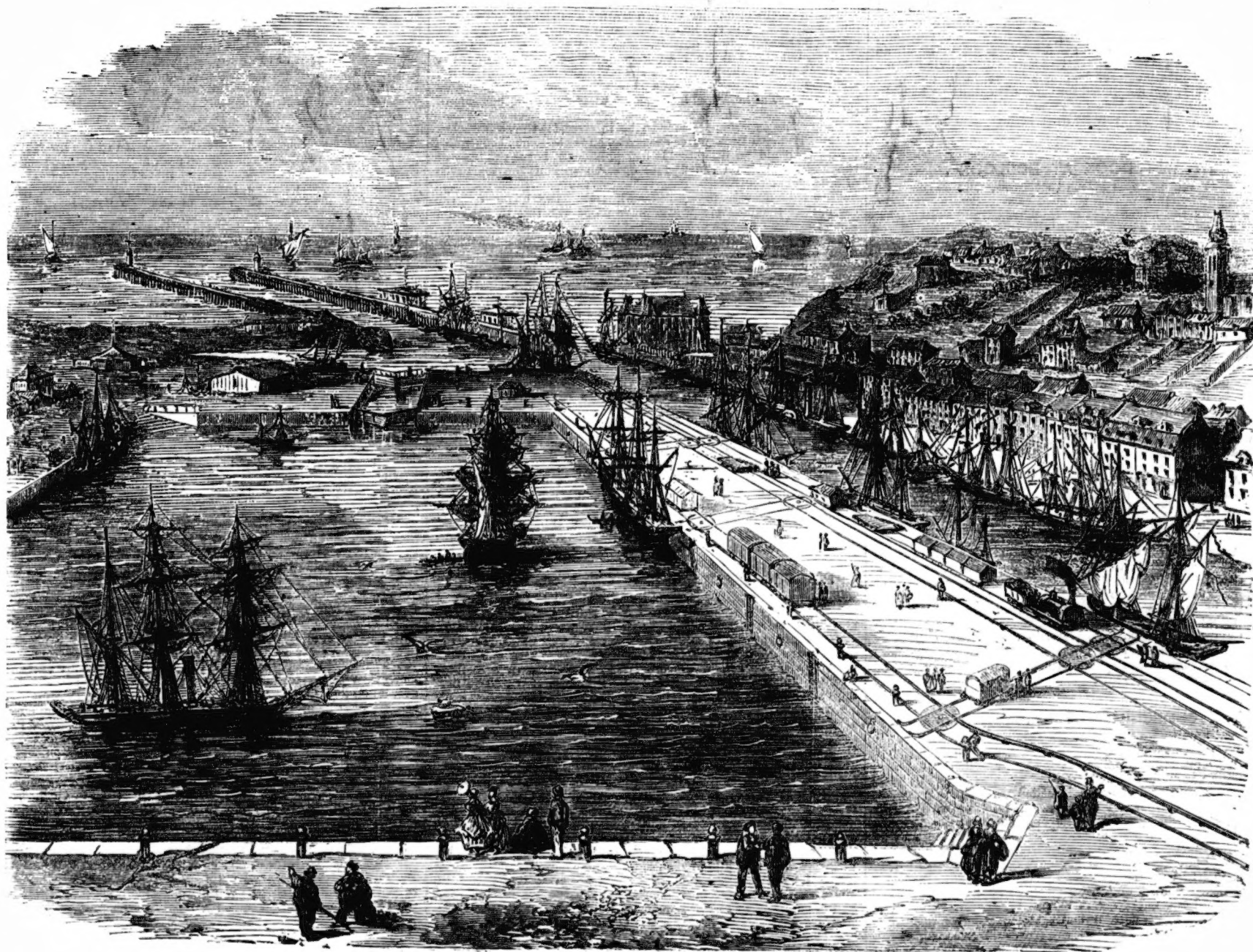
MEXICAN GUERRILLAS QUARRELLING AT THE GAMING-TABLE.—(FROM A PICTURE BY M. LOHALLÉ, IN THE PARIS FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)



BREWERY AT KLEIN-SCHWECHAT, NEAR VIENNA.



THE FRENCH FRIGATE JUNON IN A CYCLONE NEAR MALABAR.



FLOATING BASIN IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION AT BOULOGNE-SUR-MER.

"A QUARREL BETWEEN MEXICAN GUERRILLAS AT THE GAMING-TABLE."

M. LAHALLÉ has made a striking subject from a scene which will remind his countrymen, when they see it in the Paris fine art exhibition, of that Mexican war which has produced more subjects for art than satisfaction to the national ambition. This scene at the rude gaming-table at the camp, lighted by the glare from a single lamp and displaying all the fierce emotions that belong to the Mexican, to whom gambling is a necessary excitement, is one of the most remarkable compositions in the salon of 1863.

THE GREAT VIENNESE BREWERY.

HAVE you ever tasted the true Vienna beer? Not the pallid, stale, casky brewage that the peasants and labourers swill from their great pewter-topped glass tankards at the suburban ale-houses; but the rich, winey product of the skill of the real Austrian chemistry of malt and hops, the creamy, piquant, bubbling, sparkling vintage of the great brewery of Klein-Schwechat in the outskirts of the Austrian capital. We publish an illustration of this enormous Continental factory of drink, this head-quarters of brewage, the rival of Bass, the competitor of Allsopp, the equal even of Barclay and Perkins, the Continental parallel of Truman, Hanbury, and Co. This great institution boasts of some antiquity; for it was commenced in a small two-penny-half-penny way, in 1632, and scarcely made much progress until 1863, when a "spirited proprietor," Anton Dreber, with a soul of enterprise, took the place, and extended its fame throughout the district and beyond it, to remote regions where Germans love the malt wine of the Fatherland and absorb it by the barrel for the good of their health and the increase of their shadows. It is now the equal of the great London breweries, and includes oast-houses for malting, hop-stores, and drying-rooms, and all the accessories of a vast manufacture. There are also several steam-engines of goodness knows how many horse power; a large 20-horse water-power engine, and 500 workmen employed constantly in the establishment. The great vats and coppers contain hundreds of hog-heads of beer and ale, and there are thirteen cellars containing about 100,000 hog-heads of lager beer only for the annual consumption of the deep drinkers of the *biere-garten* and the taverns. There are a couple of gigantic tuns holding some 150 hog-heads each for daily supply of beer; there are about 180 horses and oxen at work as beasts of "draught," in a more than usually literal sense. The trade of this tremendous brewery is so large that the taxes it contributes to the State in the way of duty must make a considerable item.

CYCLONE IN THE ROADS OF MATRE, NEAR MALABAR.

INTELLIGENCE has been received of a terrible cyclone by which the French frigate *Junon* was almost wrecked in the roads of Matre during her voyage from Réunion (Isle of Bourbon). The voyage commenced from Saint Paul in magnificent weather, but it was observed on the following day that the sky was becoming overcast, while the variations in the barometer gave serious cause for alarm. Two days afterwards, at eleven o'clock at night, a fearful squall struck the vessel, and for the whole night it was a fight with wind and waves; for five hours the frigate lay overboard, almost engulfed, and refused to answer to her helm, as she was beaten and crushed by the sea. Almost everything was carried away, her engine fires were put out, and the pumps were powerless to prevent the water from increasing in the hold. At six o'clock in the morning, as if by enchantment, the waves fell to a dead calm, the centre of which seemed to be the ship itself; and she lay like a log upon the water, her crew almost longing for a little of that wind of which they had just had too much. The clouds, torn into fantastic shapes, shrouded the sky; thick mists hung upon the sea; and the entire waste of water was but one huge heaving mass of liquid, over which flocks of sea-birds hung, unable to fly in the heavy air, or came to find rest and refuge on the deck of the vessel itself. Flights of locusts, probably torn from the rocks of Baryodos, fifty leagues distant, and flying-fish, fell upon the deck; and in the midst of it all, an electric influence of a strange character affected every living thing. Two hours had scarcely elapsed before the storm broke out again with renewed fury, and continued for three days, during which the ship beat about, and by a miracle reached the islands of Seychelle, where it was at length brought to moorings, and laid up for repairs.

NEW WET DOCK AT BOULOGNE.

EVERY DAY the Channel seems to narrow, and France and England approach more nearly to each other. Before we have fully realised all the advantages of tidal trains and swift packet service, we are startled with a project to connect the two shores by means of a monster railway bridge—a scheme to which the Emperor of the French has consented to give his best consideration. Boulogne and Calais have long been regarded even by the French inhabitants as in some sort English colonies. The natives of those places live on and for the Britons who go there, either for pleasure or because the arm of English law against debt is too short too reach across the Straits of Dover. They are English colonies, and yet, somehow, we seldom hear much of what is going on there, though these cities undergo changes and improvements of no little importance. For instance, an entire dock, of which we publish an engraving, has only just now been added to the maritime accommodation in the port of Boulogne, where we have so often wandered and wondered at the first revelations there made to us of that Continental life of which we had heard so much. The area of this most important enlargement of the dock space is seven hectares, or about 83,730 square yards, while the walls of the quay measure 1100 metres in extent. A great inclined plane has been constructed in a creek in the north-west angle for the discharge of timber, and the basin communicates with the discharge-dock by a sluice "à sas" (a sieve-like sluice), twenty-one metres in length, the sieve being closed by two pairs of gates. The gates are formed of sheet-iron, and are the largest metal gates of the kind ever manufactured in France, each of them weighing 70,000 kilogrammes, and presenting at low water a superficies of about 144 metres, supporting a charge of water equal to 600,000 kilogrammes. The river gates are of wood. Between the basin and the port a large space of ground has been reserved, measuring some sixty metres, upon which the Northern Railway Company has established three lines of way, crossed by other cross lines of tramway for working the various turning-tables necessary to the proper regulation of the goods trains which will be required for the increased traffic.

THE SHOEBOURNESS EXPERIMENTS.

In a recent number we published the results of the first of the experiments made at Shoeburness on the Plymouth fort shield. The work has since been continued upon that and other structures; the experiments being diversified last week and on Tuesday by trials intended to test the effect of what is called vertical firing, which, in its way, is a very important question. There are two portions of every ironclad which, however impenetrable its sides, are vulnerable to attack—the bottom and the deck. The one may be attacked by torpedoes; the other must be dealt with by means of vertical fire. For this reason it is highly desirable that the provision of efficient mortars should not be neglected. And by efficient mortars we mean not only mortars which will throw heavy shells to long ranges, but mortars or pieces of ordnance of some sort which can do this with a reasonable amount of accuracy. Such accuracy the present mortars can scarcely be said to possess. The practice last week was unusually good for mortar practice, and yet out of sixteen shells fired at 900-yards range to lodge in a space as nearly as possible 22 ft. square, only two took effect, and some few fell from forty to fifty yards wide of the mark. In days before

rifled guns were thought of such practice as this was all very well, and even nowadays many mortars placed about the batteries of our harbours, and firing rapidly, might, and probably would, cause serious damage to an attacking fleet; but the value of vertical fire is so great—one large shell passing through the decks of a ship would cause such terrible havoc—that it is of great importance not to allow this class of fire to fall into the background. It ought to keep pace with other artillery improvements; and it is satisfactory, therefore, to learn that the Ordnance Select Committee are engaged in perfecting some rifled mortars, or rather rifle cannonades, for high angle firing, which in respect of accuracy and effect will be a great improvement on the old 13-inch or 10-inch mortars. As regards the vulnerability of the Plymouth fort to this species of attack, it is satisfactory to learn that the fort is secure against it. Two shells which fell on the roof and were afterwards exploded occasioned no inconvenience and caused no damage inside the fort. If forts can thus be made secure against vertical fire, and if they can at the same time deliver an effective vertical fire against shipping, they will have gained a very material point of superiority in defence.

During last week's experiments the casemates were covered with a considerable depth of earth in sandbags, &c.; but, as it was supposed that this afforded a too decided protection, on the resumption of the tests, on Tuesday, the earth which had been placed over the roofs of the casemates had been removed, as far as the Plymouth target was concerned, and the practice commenced by firing at the roof of the Plymouth casemate from two 13-in. mortars, at a range of 900 yards. As on the former occasion, the shell was made up to 207 lb. with sand, the elevation was 60 deg., and the charge 3 lb. 5 oz. The practice was exceedingly provoking; for, though generally very good for vertical fire, not one shell out of the thirty-four rounds fired fell upon the uncovered roof aimed at. Contrasting this practice with that of the former occasion, when the same mark was hit twice in sixteen rounds, it must be considered very unfortunate.

The next practice was with the 10-in. guns, or horizontal shell-firing, at the Plymouth target, the charge of 48 lb., equal to a range of 1000 yards. The first round, aimed at the left-hand side, struck too high, and penetrated 18 in., opposite the uprights, just at the commencement of the curve, at the top of the face, and close to an old fracture. Very little damage was done inside, some of the minor parts of the structure only being slightly deranged.

The second round was also aimed at the left side, but again struck too high, and entered close to the last round, but clear of the upright, making the fourth blow about the same spot; the structure was penetrated, the shell bursting in passing; the point fell just inside and produced a few splinters; the roof-girders were left practically intact, which could hardly have been expected. A small piece of the plate was driven to the rear. On the whole, considering that the shell struck at a point so very much damaged before, the effect produced was marvellously small. It was remarked that the iron concrete did its work remarkably well as a filling for the space at the top. The third round struck just over the left top of the post, making the fifth blow on a space of 2 ft. by 2 ft. 9 in. It knocked away the whole top of the post, the plates of which had been previously cracked, and hurled large pieces to the rear with fragments of the shell. The structure was greatly damaged, and the casemate would have been quite untenable; but the concentration of fire was of course of the most improbable character. The large piece of plating which was knocked out must have weighed more than a ton, as it measured about 2 ft. by 2½ ft. This was quite the sensation round of the whole experiments.

The next round was at the War Office experimental target, the projectile being a 10 in. shell, fired with a full charge of 50 lb. It struck the extreme left-hand part—i.e., the ½-in. plate, over a 2-in. skin, over concrete only. It penetrated far into the concrete, and, bursting inside, opened the iron lining and the concrete poured out of the aperture; looking inside, however, the concrete could be seen standing firm beyond the shell's crater. The next round was a 10-in. shot, with 48-lb. charge. Struck on the 8-in. plate on the 2-in. skin on the brick pier, the penetration was 28.96 in. The shot remained sticking in the hole unbroken, and no damage was to be observed either inside or outside. The next round was similar to the last, but aimed at the plating backed with stringers, opposite the brick part of the pier, where the projectile buried itself 31 in., and remained sticking unbroken in the hole. No damage inside or outside. The next and last round was to be at another part of this target.

From these experiments it is to be inferred (1) that the roofing of the Plymouth Breakwater casemate, so far as it has been tried, is all that could be desired. It had previously borne the blow of the 13-inch shell on the 2½ feet of earth without the least sign of damage, and although, unfortunately, the uncovered roof was not tested, it was pretty evident, from the effect on the earth, that the concrete would have stood the test thoroughly. The junction of the roof and face, so severely tested on Tuesday, stood that test much better than could possibly have been expected. 2. That unbacked structures, such as the Plymouth Breakwater fort, when tested to destruction, may finally yield with very destructive effects, but that it requires very exceptional treatment to produce these effects; the probabilities of a space of about six square feet being struck five times by an enemy in action being exceedingly remote. It remains to be proved whether a backed-up structure, when subjected to similar severe treatment, will not yield to an equal degree. 3. That 10 in. of iron, whether disposed in solid plates or backed by hollow stringers, is more than sufficient as against 10-in. shot at 1000-yards range when the iron rests against a brickwork backing.

On Wednesday salvos of artillery were fired at the target representing the Plymouth Breakwater fort, and these sufficed to complete the destruction which had been partially wrought in the heavy batterings of previous trials. Another attempt was made to pitch a shell from the 13-inch mortar on the concrete roof, but without success.

Our illustration shows the state of the Plymouth Breakwater Fort casemate after it had undergone its first series of poundings, and while it was being prepared for the mortar and vertical practice.

PRINCE ALFRED AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE announcement that a "brilliant fête" was to be given at the Crystal Palace in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh necessarily be supposed to have offered features of attraction such as few occasions could possibly present; and it is not too much to say that the event which took place last Saturday was one of the most interesting and impressive which has yet been associated with the building since the period of its inauguration. The first appearance of the Duke of Edinburgh among "the people" since his return to England after his escape from the hands of an assassin—the fact that his brother, the Prince of Wales, would accompany him—the eager expectation that the great hero of the Abyssinian campaign was to be a partaker of the general ovation—the continued brightness of the weather—the absence of any disturbing cause to prevent the promised display of fireworks from being, as it was announced it would be, the most magnificent which has ever yet been witnessed in these gardens—all these and other considerations suggested such an exceptional treat to the company that thousands upon thousands poured into the grounds almost as soon as the doors were opened. The first objects of attraction were the preparations for the fireworks, which were arranged with much skill and taste along the grand terrace, and all around the spot occupied by the fountains. The most conspicuous feature was an elaborately constructed device representing a vessel in full sail, and described as her Majesty's ship *Galatea*, which it was known would present some startling and imposing effects. All the surrounding devices bore their part in assisting the bright prospect that grand results were to be achieved; but so skillfully were the actual intentions of the artist veiled, that only the well-experienced in such matters

could do no more than "wonder" what their eyes were to be feasted with at a later hour of the day.

As the time approached for the expected arrival of the Royal party the whole of the central transept, extending far away into the distance on each side, was thronged by one of the densest masses of expectant visitors that was ever congregated together in a similar space; and the moment their Royal Highnesses (who arrived about four o'clock, and were received by the directors of the Crystal Palace Company) entered the box appropriated to them there was a general ebullition of feeling on the part of the spectators, which the Duke of Edinburgh readily acknowledged; but the more enthusiastic outburst of popular delight was reserved for a subsequent period of the day's festivities.

The arrangements for the accommodation of the distinguished guests were precisely the same as they were on the previous Saturday—that is to say, there were three boxes most elegantly fitted up in that part of the transept which is generally occupied by a theatre; these led to a spacious apartment where dinner was to be provided for the Royal guests, and also to a canopied balcony in the exterior facing the terrace—an arrangement which enabled their Royal Highnesses to enjoy all the operations of the fête without being compelled to mingle, to any inconvenient extent, with the assembled populace.

The entertainment first on the programme was a grand opera concert, which presented unusual attractions.

As the performances proceeded the applause was loud and enthusiastic; and when, at the end of the first part, the National Anthem was given, the Duke of Edinburgh received a greeting from the vast multitude—as well from those who could not get a glimpse of him as from the more fortunate who were enabled to fix their opera-glasses upon him—which must have awakened the most grateful responses in his heart; but it was when the moment came for Mr. Cummings and the choir to sing a new song, called "God Bless our Sailor Prince," composed by Glover, that the loyal welcome found vent in such a tumultuous outpouring of affectionate delight as prevented the orchestra from proceeding. The concert was altogether an abundant success, and during its progress the coup-d'œil witnessed from the orchestra was one of the most remarkable that even the Crystal Palace, on its most renowned gala days, has ever yet exhibited. At the close of the concert the Royal party removed to the outer balcony to witness the playing of the fountains, accompanied by the music of the band of the Coldstream Guards; and never have these "watery elements" in a grand fête champagne been brought into more successful practice—the sun not being sufficiently powerful to divert or dazzle the eyes of the spectators, and there was no wind. Here again the Duke of Edinburgh was greeted by the cheers of the multitude as he presented himself in the balcony; and it must have been a great boon to his Royal Highness to be relieved for a time from the pressure of such ardent rejoicing, when, with the Prince of Wales and the other members of the distinguished party, he retired to partake of dinner. During this period there was no special entertainment for the general company, and they had only to amuse themselves with the ordinary attractions of the place.

Conspicuous amongst the novelties which might be seen at various points of the building were a variety of models exhibited by the Aeronautical Society, and the most prominent of these was the aerial steam-carriage shown by Mr. Springfellow. This machine (which at intervals during the day's entertainment was made to traverse the most frequented parts of the palace) is only 12 lb. in weight, including engine, boiler, water, and fuel. It has a cylinder of 13-16 in. diameter, two-inch stroke, works two propellers of 23 in. diameter, gets up steam to 100 lb. pressure in five minutes, and when at work its propellers make 600 revolutions per minute.

Darkness—or rather night, for it was scarcely to be called dark, so bright and clear was the atmosphere—having set in, all eyes were turned in one direction—the spot where the grand display of pyrotechny was to be put in motion; and at this moment a fresh arrival was announced among the Royal guests. The Princess of Wales, it appears, anxious to witness the fireworks, had come to Sydenham. Her Royal Highness presented herself, first of all in the Royal box, and afterwards in the garden balcony, to the infinite surprise and delight of the company, who were not so far exhausted by their efforts in welcoming the Duke of Edinburgh as to be unable to give her Royal Highness one of those enthusiastic ovations to which she has happily become accustomed.

The fireworks commenced at a quarter to ten o'clock; and it must at once be said that the directors had evidently intended that they should transcend every former exhibition of the kind, and in this they most completely succeeded; for anything more perfect in the way of taste and arrangement, or more appropriate to the circumstances of the occasion, the pyrotechnic art could scarcely be supposed to produce. The state of the weather, moreover, was especially favourable to such a condition of things, for the wind was mild, and in the direction where it was required to be, while the moon was graciously pleased to hide her face behind a cloud, lest perhaps she should chance to pale the fires of the magnesium lights and balloons. The preliminary rockets and shells having, as usual, fulfilled their duty, the most interesting ceremony of saluting their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh with signal lights, accompanied by appropriate pyrotechnic devices, was performed by the men of the 19th Middlesex Volunteers, under the command of Colonel T. F. Hughes, M.P. Along the entire line between the large fountains and the upper terrace, over which sat the Royal party, were stationed the members of the corps, at equal distances apart, each holding a flambeau, which changed from one coloured light to another with all the rapidity of a kaleidoscope. Next to this in importance, and which was doubtless intended as the chef-d'œuvre of the evening, was the device already mentioned, representing her Majesty's ship *Galatea*. The length of the vessel was 80 ft., and the height of her topmast upwards of 40 ft. She carried full sail; and as she stood on the "stocks," with her portholes open and the British ensign flying at the foretop, she presented an appearance of striking grandeur. As the mechanism was brought to bear which was to exhibit this ingenious and beautiful device in all its splendour of illumination, the red and blue fires issuing from various parts of the ship, and the deep green of the waves on which she appeared to ride produced a result such as the most enthusiastic admirer of these exhibitions could not do otherwise than witness with extreme satisfaction. At the time the combined effect was developing itself rockets were flying and bursting in all directions, so that the sound was somewhat like that which might be created by an engagement at sea. After this came a brilliant cascade of fire, falling from a great height over a span of 100 feet, accompanied by a battery of Roman candles extending along the upper terrace. From the top of this cascade there descended a stream of fire which would seem to threaten destruction to all around, but which was kept under such skilful control that not even the idea of danger for one moment obtruded itself. The music with which this and other parts of the pyrotechnic performances was accompanied greatly heightened the effect.

For the rest, the fireworks were made up of signal maroons, brilliant illuminations of the fountains, batteries of guns, and aerial maroons, followed by batteries of roman candles, the descent of a fiery comet from each of the high towers, and, conspicuous above all—next to the design of the *Galatea*—were two set pieces, in the shape of circular garlands, the one inclosing an anchor, with the words "Welcome, Alfred!" the other representing the Prince of Wales feathers, with the single word "Welcome!" Both these devices were objects of the most enthusiastic admiration, in which the Royal visitors warmly participated.

The visitors numbered upwards of 30,000.

IRELAND is so exceedingly quiet just now that Judges and juries have hardly anything to do. Mr. Justice Keogh has congratulated the grand jury on "the entire absence of crime" in King's County. The county has never been in a more satisfactory state; it is the same with Carlow, Wicklow, and Louth.

MORE ROBBERIES WITH VIOLENCE.

At Southwark, a young man, named Jeremiah, was charged with being concerned, with others not in custody, in committing a murderous assault upon Mr. John Carley, in the New-cut, Lambeth, and robbing him of a gold Albert chain and seal. The prosecutor, who was much injured about the right side of the face, is an engineer, and resides in Suffolk-street, Brompton. Last Saturday night he proceeded with his wife to the New-cut to purchase provisions. A little before twelve o'clock they were about to cross the road, when he felt a tug at his watch-chain, and saw a young man break it from the watch and run up Windmill-street with it. Witness ran after him, when the prisoner and three others came up and hustled him. He got clear of them and again pursued

George Cooper, twenty-five, was brought before Mr. Burcham charged with assaulting John Nott, in the Borough Market, and robbing him of a silver watch, under the following daring circumstance. The prosecutor said he is a fruit salesman, carrying on business in Bermondsey-street. Last Saturday, about five o'clock, he was in the Borough Market, about to purchase some currants, when he felt a severe blow on his right side, and on looking to see who inflicted it he felt a tug at his watch, and saw the prisoner break it from the chain and run away with it. Witness followed him and saw him stopped, when he threw the watch with great violence on the ground. It was picked up by a bystander and handed to the beadle of the market. Confirmatory evidence was given, after which the prisoner, in answer to the charge, said it was the first time he had done anything of the kind, and he hoped the magistrate would be lenient to him. Mr. Burcham told him such robberies were so numerous that he should commit him for trial. He was committed accordingly.

A CONVICT'S DIFFICULTIES.—Among the petitions to the House of Commons to be found in the latest report is one of an extraordinary character, presented by Mr. Denman. It is the petition of John Parsons, a convict under sentence in Pentonville Prison. In 1854, the petitioner states, he was convicted at the Birmingham Sessions of housebreaking, and was sentenced to transportation for fifteen years. He served the first three years of his time in England, and was then taken to Western Australia, where he served four years and a half. He then received a ticket-of-leave, and, after working at a domestic servant for two years and a half more, he obtained a pardon for the remainder of his term. He has now lost the document containing his pardon, but he believes it contained a condition that he might go to any part of her Majesty's dominions, except to the United Kingdom, until the expiration of his sentence. He accordingly went to Adelaide, where he was recognised by the police as a pardoned convict, and ordered to leave the city in seven days, on pain of being sent to prison for three years. He produced his pardon, which he had then in his possession, but he was told by one of the magistrates that it was of no use to him there, and was recommended to go back to England. Knowing this would only expose him to greater danger, he tried to ship to Melbourne, but no captain would have him on board, as there was a penalty of £100

Peto's Bankruptcy.—The case of Peto, Betts and Crampton, the well-known railway contractors, has again been before Mr. Commissioner Winslow in the Bankruptcy Court. Mr. Linklater, on behalf of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, informed the Court that both the assignees and the bankrupts were now satisfied that £210,000 originally claimed from the railway company was not due; but that, on the contrary, £365,000 was due to the company from Peto, Betts, and Crampton, and £119,000 from the firm of Peto and Betts. The company did not admit the propriety of the principle on which the bankrupts' accounts were prepared, but they felt they would not be benefited by pursuing their larger claim at present. After some observations from the counsel for the assignees, Mr. Linklater observed that the books of the bankrupt were admirably kept, and not a scrap of paper was missing. There being no opposition, the Commissioner granted orders of discharge for the bankrupts, observing that he could express no opinion as to the transactions between the London, Chatham and Dover Company and the firm of Peto, Betts and Crampton. Though these matters had been investigated at great length, the bankrupts had had no opportunity of stating their side of the question.

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TO THE

CORNS and BUNIONS.—A Gentleman many years tormented with Corns, will be happy to afford others the information by which he obtained their entire removal in a short period, without pain or inconvenience. Forward address on a stamped envelope to F. Kingston, Esq., Cheam, Surrey.

